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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-200 CONTENTS *17 October 1995*

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League, Algeria Sign Memo on Observers *[MENA]* 1
Libyan Delegation at IPU Condemns Sanctions *[Tripoli Radio]* 1
'Arafat: More International Involvement Needed *[Turin LA STAMPA 15 Oct]* 1

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 6 Oct 2
Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 8 Oct 5
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 10 Oct 7

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Condemns South Lebanon Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9
'Arafat Leaves for Colombia Nonaligned Summit *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Cabinet Meets, Discusses Accord Implementation *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Acting PNC Speaker on Charter, Elections *[AL-YAWM 10 Oct]* 11
Fatah Warns Against Accord Implementation Delay *[Jericho VOP]* 11
Shaykh Expects Hamas To Participate in Elections *[Jericho VOP]* 11
Gaza Closure Lifted; $6 Million Daily Loss *[Jericho VOP]* 12
Commercial Strike, Rally in Support of Prisoners *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
New Head of Autonomy Security Profiled *[MA'ARIV 13 Oct]* 12
Security Chief Comments on Redeployment *[Jerusalem TV]* 14
Al-Qassam Brigades Said Ready To Halt Action *[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH 12 Oct]* 15

Arab-Israeli Talks

Peres, 'Arafat Meet at Erez Checkpoint *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
    Hold News Conference *[Jericho VOP]* 16
Withdrawal Dates From West Bank Cities Detailed *[Jericho VOP]* 17

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Commercial Director of Newspaper Assassinated *[Algiers TV]* 18
Journalist, Driver Killed in Algiers *[Algiers Radio]* 18
Sifi Addresses Economic, Social National Council *[Algiers Radio]* 18
Presidential Candidates Allocated TV, Radio Time *[Algiers Radio]* 19
    Update on Media Time Allocation *[Algiers Radio]* 19
Presidential Candidate Boukrouh Interviewed *[Algiers Radio]* 19
FIS Asks France Not To Support Elections *[Paris LE FIGARO 14 Oct]* 20
UN Urged To Demand Justice for Saharans *[Algiers Radio]* 20

Egypt

Muslim Brotherhood Members Arrested, Tried 21

    - Interrogation of Suspects Detailed *[AL-AHRAM 11 Oct]* 21
    - MB Statement on Arrest Issued *[AL-SHA'B 10 Oct]* 23
    - Trial, British Lawyers Viewed *[AL-AKHBAR 10 Oct]* 24
- Muslim Brotherhood Competes for Parliament Seats *[AL-MUSAWWAR 13 Oct]* 25
- Indian Prime Minister Continues Visit 26
    - Holds Interview *[MENA]* 26
    - Meets With Mubarak *[Delhi International]* 26
    - Meets Prime Minister Sidqi *[MENA]* 27
- Pakistani Justice, Tourism Ministers Arrive *[MENA]* 27
- Mubarak Receives U.S. Secretary of Navy *[MENA]* 27
    - Dalton Concludes Visit *[MENA]* 28
- U.S. Official Cited on Ties, Country's Role *[MENA]* 28
- U.S. 'Interference' in Elections Condemned *[AL-AHALI 11 Oct]* 28
- Document on U.S. 'Goals' for Region Revealed *[AL-SHA'B 10 Oct]* 29
- Envoy Views Nuclear Issue Discussion With Israel *[MENA]* 29
- Air Force Commander Discusses Advancements *[MENA]* 30
- AL-AKHBAR Mocks Iraqi Referendum *[MENA]* 31
- Al-Qadhdhafi's Treatment of Palestinians Viewed *[AL-MUSAWWAR 13 Oct]* 31

Libya

- Application for Security Council Seat Withdrawn *[JANA]* 32
- Editorial Assails U.S., Sanctions Law *[JANA]* 32
- Stranded Palestinians To Stage Protest *[Tripoli TV]* 32
- Editor Attacks Reports on Palestinians' Departure *[JANA]* 33
- Al-Qadhdhafi Hails Referendum Vote for Saddam *[Tripoli TV]* 33
- Protocol Signed With Central African Republic *[JANA]* 33
- Agreements Signed on Ownership of Farms in Sudan *[Tripoli TV]* 34

Morocco

- 'Arafat Stops in Casablanca, Thanks King *[Rabat TV]* 34

Sudan

- Foreign Minister on Regional, Arab Issues *[London AL-HAYAH 15 Oct]* 34
- Minister Receives Nationals From Iraqi Jails *[Omdurman Radio]* 38
- Defense Minister Visits Army Division in Darfur *[Omdurman Radio]* 38

Tunisia

- Paris Said Planning Large Increase in Annual Aid *[Paris LA TRIBUNE DESFOSSES 6 Oct]* 38
- Arrest of MDS Leader Called 'Insult' to Paris *[Paris LES ECHOS 12 Oct]* 39

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

- 'Leading Figures' Appeal for Parliament Restoration *[AFP]* 40

Saudi Arabia

- French Defense Minister Millon Pays Visit 40
    - Holds Talks With Prince Sultan *[SPA]* 40
    - Delivers Chirac Message to King Fahd *[SPA]* 40
    - Holds News Conference *[SPA]* 40

- Meets With Crown Prince *[SPA]* 42
- Leaves Jeddah *[SPA]* 42
- Visit Marks 'Major Opening Up' to Region *[London AL-HAYAH 13 Oct]* 43

CDLR Bulletin Contains 'Important Message' *[London CDLR Monitor 22 Sep]* 43

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Calls For Reconciliation With Iraq *[Abu Dhabi TV]* 46

President Intervenes To Rescind Death Penalty for Maid *[WAKH]* 47

IRAQ

- Ibrahim Remarks on Referendum Implications *[Baghdad TV]* 48
- INA Carries Breakdown of Votes in Governorates 51
- Tribal Leaders, Citizens Congratulate Saddam *[Baghdad TV]* 52
- 'Massive Demonstrations' Celebrate Saddam Victory *[INA]* 53
- Referendum 'Turning Point' in National History *[INA]* 53
- Saddam's 'Landslide' Hailed as 'Slap' to Enemies *[INA]* 54
- Paper Says Citizens To 'Resist Enemy Schemes' *[INA]* 54
- Russia's Zhirinovskiy in Baghdad for Referendum 55
  - Says Referendum 'Challenge' to U.S. *[INA]* 55
  - Meets With Saddam *[INA]* 55
  - Discusses Relations With Tariq 'Aziz *[INA]* 55
- Kuwaiti POW's Reportedly Moved to New Prison *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 56
- Saddam Adviser on 'Important Mission' to Amman *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Oct]* 56
- Dinar 'Plummets' Against Dollar on Black Market *[AFP]* 56
- Contacts Held To Establish New Opposition Front *[AL-AHRAM 11 Oct]* 57
- KDP Forces Capture PKK Bases in Dahuk, Kill 150 *[IRNA]* 57

ISRAEL

- Communique on IDF Freedom of Action in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 58
- Minister Opposes Changing Strategy in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 58
- West Bank, Gaza Closure 'Partially' Lifted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 58
- Likud: PLO-Hamas Aim for 'Eradication' of Nation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 58
- Iranian Plane Hijacker Indicted *[THE JERUSALEM POST 17 Oct]* 58

JORDAN

- King Husayn Comments on Iraq, Arab Affairs *[London FINANCIAL TIMES 17 Oct]* 59
- Prime Minister Speaks on Developing Arab Ties *[JORDAN TIMES 17 Oct]* 60
- 'Militant' Arrested for 'Slander' Against King *[JORDAN TIMES 17 Oct]* 60
- Families Urge Saddam To Release Detainees *[AL-ASWAQ 17 Oct]* 61

LEBANON

- Army Troops Reportedly on 'Alert' in South *[VOL]* 62
- 'Resistance' Retaliates Against Israeli Assaults *[Beirut Radio]* 62
- SLA Commander, Rabin View Security Developments *[Voice of the South]* 62
- Hizballah on Israeli Objectives, 'Aggressions' *[Tehran Radio]* 62
- Hizballah To Import Arms 'Direct' From Tehran *[Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA 15 Oct]* 63
- Speaker Urges al-Hirawi To Extend Term *[Beirut Radio]* 63
  - Al-Hirawi Agrees To Extend *[Beirut Radio]* 64
- Lebanon Said Headed Toward 'Dictatorship' *[VOL]* 64
- Cabinet Addresses Message to President *[Beirut Radio]* 64
- Al-Hariri Meets Bonn Industrialists *[Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT 12 Oct]* 68

SYRIA

- 'Arafat's Condemnation of Lebanon Attack Assailed *[Damascus Radio]* 70

Press Analyzes al-Asad AL-AHRAM Interview *[Damascus Radio]* 70
World Urged To Study al-Asad's Statements *[Damascus Radio]* 71
Talas Comments on Early-Warning Stations *[Damascus TV]* 71
Israeli Policy Blamed for Death of Soldiers *[Damascus Radio]* 72
Damascus Not To Accept 'Any Form' of Occupation *[Damascus Radio]* 73
AL-THAWRAH Criticizes Oslo 'Concessions' *[Damascus Radio]* 73
Israeli Attempts To End Arab Boycott Derided *[Damascus Radio]* 74
Papers View Peace, 'Struggle' in Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 74
Committee Agrees on Supply of Oil, Fuel to Lebanon *[TISHRIN 14 Sep]* 75
Syrian-Lebanese Water Committee Agrees on Steps *[AL-BA'TH 21 Sep]* 75
Nation, Lebanon 'Twin Countries' Emphasized *[Damascus Radio]* 76
Criticism by Arabic Press Viewed *[AL-THAWRAH 14 Sep]* 76
Damascus, Europe Discuss Dec 95 'Business Week' *[TISHRIN 20 Sep]* 77
Al-Shar' in Cartagena for Nonaligned Meetings *[Damascus Radio]* 77

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Explosion Wounds 22 Pakistani Officers in Herat *[Kabul Radio]* 78
Radio Reports Taleban Attack, Pakistan's Involvement *[Kabul Radio]* 78
Radio Attacks Interference by 'Pakistani Circles' *[Kabul Radio]* 78
Taleban Protests to Iran on Interference in Herat *[Message of Freedom]* 79
Three Taleban Planes, Helicopter Said Shot Down *[Kabul Radio]* 79
    Six Said Killed in Downed Helicopter *[AFP]* 79
Opposition Groups Discuss Alliance Against Kabul *[Message of Freedom]* 79
Rabbani Team Tries To Secure Hezb-e Eslami Support *[Message of Freedom]* 79
UNHCR To Continue Activities in Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 80

Bangladesh

Daily Favors U.S. Idea for Solution to Crisis *[THE MORNING SUN 11 Oct]* 80
Zia Invites Opposition for Talks To End Crisis *[Dhaka Radio]* 80
One Said Killed on First Day of Opposition Strike *[Dhaka Radio]* 81
    Party Leader Urges End to Strike *[Dhaka Radio]* 81
Commentary Addresses Expansion of Ties With Iran *[Dhaka Radio]* 81

India

Pakistan Arrest of Officers Said Aimed at U.S. *[Delhi International]* 82
Commerce Minister Views Trade Ties With Russia *[Delhi TV]* 83
Commentary Addresses Russian Commission Meeting *[Delhi International]* 83
Rao Leaves for 3-Nation Visit, NAM Meeting *[Delhi Radio]* 84
Rao Calls For NAM Shift From Politics to Economics *[Delhi Radio]* 84

Iran

Khamene'i: Muslims Must Oppose Israeli Occupation *[Tehran Radio]* 84
Commentary Views Nation of Islam March in U.S. *[Tehran Radio]* 85
U.S. Applicants Said Banned From Oil Conference *[IRNA]* 86
Oil Deal With Kazakhstan Could Break U.S. Embargo *[IRNA]* 86
Foreign Companies Said Ready To Aid in Oil Projects *[Tehran Radio]* 87
Oil Minister Says Revenue Above Budget Projections *[IRNA]* 88
Azerbaijan Oil Delegation Pays Official Visit 88
    Arrives for Talks *[IRNA]* 88

Seeks 'Active Participation' in Projects *[IRNA]* 89
Official Discusses Oil Field Project *[Tehran Radio]* 89
Agrees To Form Joint Oil, Gas Company *[IRNA]* 89
Majles Speaker, DPRK Envoy View Ties, Oil Sales *[IRNA]* 89
Spokesman Denies Claims on Anti-Taleban Attacks *[IRNA]* 90
Radio Reports on Port, Marine Accord With Russia *[Tehran Radio]* 90
Russian Official Assails Interference in Ties *[IRNA]* 91
Russian Officials View Possible Israeli Strike *[IRNA]* 91
German Official Addresses Ties, Other Issues *[Tehran Radio]* 91
Calls For 'Upgrading' Trade Ties *[IRNA]* 91
Velayati Departs for NAM Meeting in Colombia *[IRNA]* 92
Rafsanjani Returns, Hails Visits as 'Fruitful' *[IRNA]* 92
Khamene'i Addresses IRGC, BRF in Mazandaran *[Tehran Radio]* 93
General Views Combat Readiness, Military Ability *[KEYHAN 26 Sep]* 94

Pakistan

Leghari: Karachi Casting 'Dark Shadow' on Economy *[Islamabad International]* 95
MQM Leader Writes to UN on 'Atrocities' *[MQM NEWS 26 Sep]* 95
MQM: Talks Contingent Upon Probe Into Killing *[THE NATION 14 Oct]* 98
Article Views 'Coup Conspiracy,' Officers' Arrest *[THE NEWS 16 Oct]* 98
THE NATION on Effect of Officers' Arrest *[16 Oct]* 99

Sri Lanka

Minister Views Investment, Ties in U.S. Talks *[DAILY NEWS 6 Oct]* 100
World Bank Briefed on National Economic Plan *[Colombo International]* 101
UK Minister Briefed on Situation in North, East *[DAILY NEWS 11 Oct]* 101
Security Forces Mount New Offensive Against LTTE *[AFP]* 101
'Thousands of Soldiers' Said Involved *[AFP]* 102

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League, Algeria Sign Memo on Observers

NC1610152895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—The Arab League and the Algerian Government today signed a memorandum of understanding on the dispatch of Arab League observers for the Algerian presidential elections, scheduled to take place on 16 November.

The agreement was signed at the Arab League General Secretariat by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Mustapha Cherif, Algeria's ambassador to Egypt and the Arab League.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said after the signing that the memorandum specifies the observers' task, method of action, residence, security, and everything related to their activity within the agreement, which Algeria will sign with the United Nations and the OAU. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid noted that 50 observers from Arab League member states will follow up the election process. [passage omitted]

Libyan Delegation at IPU Condemns Sanctions

LD1410181595 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During the discussions that took place at the Economic and Social Issues Committee, which discusses the strategies that allow for the actual implementation of national and international commitments, the Libyan Arab delegation participating in the proceedings of the 94th Interparliamentary Union's [IPU] conference affirmed that over recent years the world has started to witness an increase in the use of the air and economic embargo, and the freezing of some countries' assets. These were methods that contributed toward destroying development, and brought damage and suffering to the societies.

It pointed out that the Great Jamahiriyah is one of the countries subjected to unjust measures that led to the hindering of development efforts, caused large human and material losses, and halted the cooperation that existed with some other countries. There were measures adopted as a result of pressures by some countries on the basis of information whose truthfulness was refuted.

The Libyan Arab delegation pointed out that numerous countries and regional and international organizations had asked the UN Security Council to annul the unjust sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah.

'Arafat: More International Involvement Needed

BR1610154295 Turin LA STAMPA in Italian 15 Oct 95 p 10

[Report on interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Fernando Mezzetti in Malta; date not given: "'Arafat: The Peace Is Incomplete — Join Us, al-Asad" — first three paragraphs are LA STAMPA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the thunder of artillery fire was being heard from Adriatic shores despite the truce, Yasir 'Arafat brought a thread of optimism on the future of the Mediterranean to the Malta-Crans Montana Forum. He found himself among opponents who have turned into friends, and former friends who have turned into opponents, before whom he confirmed his commitment to peace, though without concealing the difficulties, and accepted a prize for his political work. During his day in Malta, he avoided all contact with the vipers' nests dotted around the shores of a Mediterranean that everyone hopes will turn into a "lake of peace," or so they all say.

There were meetings neither with the large Lybian delegation, despite the fact that the Colonel has halted the expulsion of the Palestinians on which he had decided in retaliation against the settlement with Israel, nor with the hard-line Iranians, led by Foreign Minister Velayati.

He did, however, have a brief meeting with a small, select group of journalists, also attended by Maltese Foreign Minister Guido de Marco, before the session at which he was awarded the prize for the agreements with Israel, which he extols, resorting to the expression used by De Gaulle for Algeria, as "the peace of the valiant."

[Correspondent] What prospects are there following September's deal in Washington?

['Arafat] The peace process is on the move. Slowly, but we are making headway. However, it ought not to remain just a matter between Jordan, Israel, and us. It must be widened to take in Syria and the Lebanon, and we must all work together in the future on security, which is not a military issue but something vaster and more varied. It means giving our children a new life, without the desperation that nurtures fanaticism and terrorism.

[Correspondent] How are the negotiations with Israel on the implementation of the agreements of principle going?

['Arafat] I have a meeting in Gaza on Sunday [today — LA STAMPA] with Shim'on Peres, and it should be decisive in removing the obstacles on the points on which Israel has not yet honored the commitments into which it has entered.

[Correspondent] Which commitments, in your opinion?

['Arafat] The withdrawal of troops from Palestinian towns, villages, and refugee camps, the completion of the transfer of powers to the Palestinian authority, and the release of prisoners, with a view to preparing for free elections under international supervision.

[Correspondent] How do you think the issue of Jerusalem can be resolved?

['Arafat] The agreement is that it will be addressed in the final discussion two years after the self-rule deal, along with the problem of the refugees, the settlements, and the borders. But Israel is trying to present us with a fait accompli in the form of demographic expansion in Jerusalem. It is therefore necessary, and not only for this reason, that all those who have supported the peace process, the major powers, the United nations, and the EU, press for the the conditions in which it can move forward to be created. ['Arafat ends]

Listing the difficulties, 'Arafat warmed to his theme, describing the threats to peace posed not only by the objective difficulties presented by the negotiations, but by the vipers' nests lurking by the wayside, and making an urgent appeal for agreements to neutralize them. He spoke with caution, using words that could apply both to the Israeli Right and to the Hamas terrorists: "We must overthrow the enemies of peace and discourage them from continuing with acts of violence and terrorism. We must implement the settlements and come through to the final stage of the negotiations. That will be sufficient to defeat violence and terrorism on both sides and to prevent blind, crazed fanaticism." Peace not only as a national aspiration, but also with a view to reconstruction: "I invite everyone to take part in rebuilding the Palestinian economy. Aid is not enough; investment is needed for development. It will help consolidate peace, which will be a guarantee for all the peoples and states in the area, who have a right to security, stability, progress, and prosperity."

[Correspondent] Including security for Israel?

['Arafat] Sure, security for Israel as well.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 6 Oct

NC1310111195

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 6 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Labor's Husayn Says Free Elections Will Avert Revolt
2. 'Adil Husayn Names Constituency Seat He Will Contest
3. Writer Urges Abandonment of Military Trials
4. Labor Party Leader Demands Guarantees of honest elections
5. Former Officer Contrasts Egyptian, Israeli Attitudes on POW's
6. Poem Comments on Palestinian-Israeli Agreement
7. Arab, Foreign Lawyers To Attend Muslim Brothers' Trials
8. Unionist Banned from Traveling to Bosnia-Herzegovina
9. Palestinian Warns Against Cultural Normalization With Israel

LABOR'S HUSAYN SAYS FREE ELECTIONS WILL AVERT REVOLT

In a 4,000-word article on page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn focuses on the need to keep the upcoming People's Assembly elections honest and free.

Under the headline "If They Win the Elections, Their Plan Is To Sell Egypt to the Foreigners and Usher in More Poverty and High Prices," Husayn discusses three main ideas. He begins by declaring that all the peace steps made since the 1970's have been a "process of Arab surrender," blasts the government for its failed economic policy, and warns the country's rulers to hold free elections if they wish to avert general rebellion.

"The ruling party and its supporters know that the people are very resentful of their tyranny and general conduct. They are afraid of the prospect of lethal violence or a likely general rebellion. By God, we are showing them the road to goodness and safety when we advise them to hold free elections. Such a method of peaceful reform will spare them a lot of retribution."

In the first part of his article, Husayn blames "the rulers" for leading other Arabs, notably PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Jordan, into separate peace agreements with Israel, all the way from the Camp David Accord to the Taba Agreement, weakening Syria's position in the peace negotiations. He deplores Egypt's diminishing regional influence which he says is a direct consequence of its rulers' policies and regrets the enfeeblement of the Arab League, which he sees as powerless except when it intervenes in the Algerian elections on the government's side.

He cites reports by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and UNICEF about food shortages and infant malnutrition in Iraq and declares:

"We will be accursed and sinful if we listen to these reports with coolness and without the impulse to give succor. Why should we not be defeated by the Zionists if the spirit of solidarity and mercy among ourselves has sunk so low? If the rulers do not courageously move to confront this criminal genocide, how can we speak of an Arab nation in solidarity or an Arab League?"

He contrasts the Egyptian Government's attitude on peace with that of the Palestinian people who "stand at the forefront of the rejecters and resisters, supported by the Islamic nation everywhere." He adds: "When they celebrated the Taba Agreement in Washington, the governments of Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, and Libya publicly proclaimed their rejection and warned against it, although all these countries are subject to siege and threats and described as terrorist states by the United States."

He calls on the Egyptian people, particularly young men, to let the rulers continue in their "strayfulness and falsehood until such time as God's will is done" and, meanwhile, to take upon themselves the duty entrusted to them and raise the "God Is Great" slogan to reform all the damage that has been done since 1973.

Husayn declares that reform must begin from inside the country by fighting corruption, political tyranny, and reversing the current decline in the country's agricultural output and the low rate of industrial growth which he blames on corruption. In this context he notes that between $80 and $100 billion have been smuggled outside the country instead of being invested inside Egypt and criticizes the extravagant lifestyles of the rich.

He says: "All this injustice is imposed by force. Detention or the security forces' bullets await those who protest. Still, do not think that these people own the world or that God overlooks what they are doing. God will throw back their mockery on them and give them rope in their trespasses, so they will wander like blind ones to and fro. [Koranic verse]"

Husayn concludes with these words: "Whether they hear us or not—and the signs show that so far they are regrettably deaf—the young men and the students are God's soldiers who will forcibly regain the nation's liberty, defend the freedom of the elections, and elect the most suitable representatives. They will do this with the strength of their arms and their blood in spite of the vote riggers, no matter how powerful the latter are."

'ADIL HUSAYN NAMES CONSTITUENCY SEAT HE WILL CONTEST

Under the headline "Fast Remarks" on page 5, 'Adil Husayn publishes the following brief notes:

- He regrets that Lieutenant General Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhili, chief of staff during the October 1973 war, "that war's architect and brave commander", who lived in exile until recently, was not invited to attend this year's October anniversary celebrations nor was honored in any way.

He blames Coptic Christians living in the United States who attack Coptic prelate Shanudah III and call him "dictator" because he banned Egyptian Copts from visiting Jerusalem under threat of excommunication. Husayn praises Shanudah's patriotic stands and hints that his critics are "agents of Zionism."

He addresses a greeting to 'Ali Abu-al-Naja, member of the Labor Party's Executive Committee, for abandoning the race for the parliamentary seat in the constituency of Madinat al-Nasr in Heliopolis in order to make room for 'Adil Husayn himself. He notes that the Labor Party decided he should run for this seat "for political reasons evaluated by the party leadership."

WRITER URGES ABANDONMENT OF MILITARY TRIALS

A 1,200-word article by 'Abd-al-Mu'nim Abu-al-Futuh on page 4 says that the Egyptian army's military success in October 1973 resulted from the elimination of factors that had caused Egypt's earlier defeat, including a repressive police system that had used detention camps, torture, and emergency law. He recalls how in the early 1970's the authorities burned all microfilm police files on citizens and abolished military tribunals. He also says that a return to God and religion in those days filled Egyptian troops with the necessary zeal to fight bravely to "repulse the Zionist mice who fled in panic before the believers."

He regrets the current restoration of military trials for civilians and says it will damage the Egyptian society's capabilities, encourage the flight of capital, and give the country a bad reputation. He urges the government to abandon this policy.

LABOR PARTY LEADER DEMANDS GUARANTEES OF HONEST ELECTIONS

Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri writes a 1,200-word article on pages 1 and 8, entitled: "The Election Contest and the President's Remarks"

Shukri acknowledges that the system of single-candidate tickets according to which the elections will be held are already a fait accompli but he notes that it does not respond to the original demands of the opposition parties. He expresses concern about the honesty of the coming elections and demands guarantees that they be fair.

He voices deference to the president and cites decrees and instructions issued by him to ensure the fairness of the ballot but complains that election committees have in the past ignored such guarantees.

Shukri concludes: "If we are serious this time about holding elections with a modicum of guarantees, then all concerned parties must respect the law."

FORMER OFFICER CONTRASTS EGYPTIAN, ISRAELI ATTITUDES ON POW'S

Tal'at Musallam, a retired army major general, contrasts the attitude of Egyptian troops and their commanders toward captured enemy troops with the attitude of their Israeli counterparts. He says that while some Egyptian troops might have wished to take revenge on Israeli POW's, this was an impulsive first reaction that was generally restrained by their commanders. When their passions cooled, he notes, these same Egyptian troops treated their prisoners well and shared their food and water with them. The Israelis, he says, acted in a contrary manner, protecting the Egyptian POW's immediately after their capture but killing them "with premeditation" later on.

He comments on this: "This conduct is in concert with their earlier—and later—actions including killing children, women, and old people in Dayr Yasin and Kafr Qasim, the assassination of UN mediator Count Bernadotte, sending booby-trapped letters to German scientists in Egypt, shelling children in the Bahr al-Baqar School, bombarding the Abu Za'bal factory at change of shift, attacking field hospitals with bombers and artillery in contravention of international law and military codes, demolishing homes in the occupied territories, and other criminal actions far too many to list."

He says the different Arab and Israeli attitudes to POW's show the difference between the "Arab cultural order" and the "Zionist cultural order if, indeed, it can be called culture."

Musallam concludes: "The Israeli forces would not have done what they did if their command had forbidden it because they would have known they would be punished for their criminal behavior. Perhaps, they did what they did on clear and direct orders from their criminal, racist command."

On page 3, there is a 1,500-word report by Muhammad al-Sa'dani recounting the experiences of 'Abd-al-Salam Musa, an Egyptian army sergeant who was serving with an anti-aircraft unit at al-'Arish Air Base in Sinai in 1967. He tells how the Israelis shot and killed 30 POW's after capturing the base and recounts other instances of POW killings that he viewed during his time in captivity.

POEM COMMENTS ON PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT

In a half-page spread on page 2, AL-SHA'B publishes a poem by well-known Arab poet Nizar Qabbani, a nonconformist and a critic of conservative Arab attitudes. The poem, brief extracts of which are translated below, was first published by the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH. It is preceded by the following editorial remark: "Despite our differences with the poet Nizar Qabbani and our reservations about him, we find it necessary to publish this poem."

The last walls of shame fell
And we rejoiced
We danced
We sought blessing through the signing of the peace of the cowardly
Nothing frightens us any more
Nothing shames us
Because the veins of dignity in us have dried up

They left a tin of sardines in our hands

It is called "Gaza"
A dry bone called "Jericho"
A hotel called Palestine
With no roof or pillars
They left us a body without bones
And a hand without fingers

How often have we dreamed of a green peace

A white crescent
A blue sea
And flying sails
Suddenly to find ourselves
In a garbage dump

The wedding ended... but Palestine did not attend

She saw her picture, however, broadcast on all channels
She saw her tears crossing the ocean waves
Toward Chicago, Jersey, and Miami
Behold her screaming like a slaughtered bird
This wedding is not my wedding
This gown is not my gown

This shame is not my shame
Never... O America
Never... O America
Never... O America

ARAB, FOREIGN LAWYERS TO ATTEND MUSLIM BROTHERS' TRIALS

The paper reports on pages 1 and 8 that delegations of Arab and foreign, including American, lawyers will arrive in Cairo "in the next few days" to attend one of the ongoing military trials of senior Muslim Brotherhood members. The 450-word report details defense arguments claiming that the referral of Muslim Brothers to military tribunals is unconstitutional.

The part of the report that is on page 1 is accompanied by a three-column photo of a lawyer, identified in the caption as British, standing in front of the dock in which Muslim Brotherhood defendants are standing.

UNIONIST BANNED FROM TRAVELING TO BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

A 100-word report on pages 1 and 8 says that State Security detectives on 5 October prevented Engineer Abu-al-'Ula Madi from traveling to Bosnia-Herzegovina where he planned to attend a solidarity conference with the Bosnian people. Madi is identified as assistant secretary general of the Engineers Association.

PALESTINIAN WARNS AGAINST CULTURAL NORMALIZATION WITH ISRAEL

A 1,500-word article on page 11 by 'Abd-al-Qadir Salih, identified by the paper as "a Palestinian writer residing in Damascus" warns against cultural normalization of ties with Israel.

The writer advocates a range of cultural, educational, and media activities to entrench "patriotic, Arab-Islamic values" and, among other things, "protect positive social values from being overwhelmed by a materialistic consumer lifestyle that paves the way for the hegemony of the Western colonialist social model."

He urges boycott of conferences and any other activities in which Israelis participate.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 8 Oct

NC1310135495

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 8 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Party Leader Urges End to State of Emergency
2. Security Organs Accused of Thuggery During Electioneering
3. Detained Candidate Begins Hunger Strike
4. Labor Party Approves Candidates List, Election Program
5. Pan-Arab-Islamic Meeting Resolutions Noted
6. Shukri, Other Candidates Address Election Rally
7. Reasons for Applying Islamic Shari'ah Viewed
8. Militarization of Judiciary System Criticized
9. Preacher Demands To Know Reasons for his Detention
10. Labor Party, Islamic Alliance Election Slogans Given

PARTY LEADER URGES END TO STATE OF EMERGENCY

A 1,200-word article by Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri on pages 1 and 2 recalls the "great spirit of the October 1973 war" when the people united behind the leadership and the armed forces when they fought to liberate Sinai. Shukri praises the successful deception of Israel prior to the war but laments the fact that the "October spirit did not greatly affect life behind the frontlines and the October generation was not given real opportunities to influence the nature of life which lacked the meanings of discipline, commitment, and appreciation of responsibility." He then recalls the 1976 elections held after the war and says that they were the most honest ones since 1952 but the elected assembly did not last its term because al-Sadat dissolved it in 1979 in order to remove those who opposed his Camp David accords. Using this anniversary as a background, Shukri then writes: "Thus the October anniversary comes at the start of the People' Assembly elections battle. We are in dire need for restoring the spirit of October, the spirit of challenge and reform in the most difficult missions and battles. We need it to overcome our desires and the whims of tyranny and insistence that the ruling party should have 95 percent of the Assembly seats." He then appeals to President Mubarak "to review the method of managing the elections by providing real guarantees for ensuring their fairness" and thus leave his mark like his predecessors 'Abd-al-Nasir and al-Sadat did with their achievements. He next appeals to President Mubarak "to put an end to the state of emergency and not to listen to those who say that it is necessary and indispensable. Stop the referral of civilians to military courts and give clear orders that there should be no interferences in the elections."

SECURITY ORGANS ACCUSED OF THUGGERY DURING ELECTIONEERING

The leading unattributed 350-word story on page 1 accuses the State Security Intelligence Service of "thuggery" when its agents "kidnapped seven persons" as the masses gathered around 'Adil Husayn, the Labor Party's secretary general and a candidate in the forthcoming People's Assembly elections, following the Friday prayers. Calling this a "serious precedence," the report says that this thuggery was an early start of the "security organs' plan against the Labor Party and the Islamic Alliance." The report concludes that after much effort by a Labor Party lawyer, the seven were released on bail.

DETAINED CANDIDATE BEGINS HUNGER STRIKE

An unattributed 100-word report on page 1 says that 'Abd-al-Rahman Lutfi, the Labor Party's secretary in Mallawi and a party candidate in the parliamentary elections, is suffering from kidney trouble and not receiving treatment in prison. It adds that reports from Wadi al-Natrun prison where he is jailed indicate that "Lutfi has begun a hunger strike to protest his ill-treatment and arbitrary imprisonment in the inhuman prison without even being charged." The paper appeals to all national forces to declare their solidarity and save his life.

LABOR PARTY APPROVES CANDIDATES LIST, ELECTION PROGRAM

A 70-word unattributed report on top of page 1 says that the Labor Party Executive Committee approved the list of its candidates for the People's Assembly elections and the party's election program. It adds that the committee sent a message to the government and President Mubarak "demanding commitment to the rules of democracy and a stop to the security interferences against the opposition candidates and their supporters. It also demanded that candidates should not be deprived of their right to hold rallies and election marches."

PAN-ARAB-ISLAMIC MEETING RESOLUTIONS NOTED

An unattributed 400-word report on page 2 details the resolutions of the follow up committee of the Pan-Arab-Islamic Conference which met in Beirut recently. The committee demanded "a halt to the military trial of the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members, specially Dr. 'Isam al-'Iryan, who is a member of the committee." The committee hailed the efforts to bring the pan-Arab and Islamic movements together so as to resist the "imperialist-Zionist challenge and protect public freedoms and human rights." It voiced support for the Palestinian forces opposed to the agreement with Israel and also denounced what it termed "U.S. backing for the Zionist occupation so as to continue its settlements and aggressive practices."

SHUKRI, OTHER CANDIDATES ADDRESS ELECTION RALLY

A 2,000-word report on page 3 by Dawud Hasan details an election rally in the village of al-Shawbak al-Gharbi in al-Jizah governorate attended by Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri and a number of party candidates from the local electoral districts. The report begins by giving Shukri's justification for fighting the election battle this year, after having boycotted the 1990 elections. He says: "We boycotted the 1990 elections because there were no guarantees they would be fair. Some people are asking us today: Are you fighting in the elections today because there are guarantees? Has anything changed? I reply by saying that matters have become more complicated and the elections will be without guarantees at a time when the people are facing many problems, such as providing the minimum necessities like fees for schools, and some food. Yet, all must rally together and vote for the better candidates. No one of us should forget the trust in his hands because each one of us is a custodian and is responsible for his flock." After accusing the government and the National Democratic Party of disregarding court orders that were in favor of the opposition and of not respecting the constitution, Shukri says that "the people must come forward and take their right to everything. Rigging should not be made the principal phenomenon of our elections and the masses should have the last word." He then argues that a country like Egypt has the resources and ability to resolve problems such as housing, education, and illiteracy. He adds that he does not expect the police to interfere in the elections but rather the mayors, local council leaders, and village heads. Touching on the accusations leveled against the slogan of "Islam is the Solution" and the accusation that the Islamic Alliance does not have specific programs, the Labor Party leader says that "Islam has the solution to all our problems because it is the religion of life and worship. It has laid down the bases for dealing with all the people. There are specific programs in the People's Assembly drawers which the alliance presented in 1987."

The report adds that the other candidates also spoke at the rally and they all stressed the corruption prevailing under the ruling party and the problems facing the citizens in this electoral district. They also reiterated Shukri's contention that Islam has the solution.

Page 4 is devoted to biographical sketches of some of the Labor Party's candidates for the People's Assembly elections while page 5 concentrates on exposing the corruption and scandals within the NDP and among its candidates.

REASONS FOR APPLYING ISLAMIC SHARI'AH VIEWED

A 500-word unsigned article in the "Islam is the Solution" column on page 5 gives four reasons for the need to apply the Islamic shari'ah. Giving religion as the first reason, it says that "application of Islamic shari'ah is an order from God in which there is no choice. It then gives several verses from the Koran to back up this argument. The second reason given is that of reforms. It says that application of Islamic shari'ah will reform the individual and society because shari'ah "comes very simply and decisively from God who knows what reforms life and what spoils it." The third reason, argues the article, is nationalism. It says that every society and every state is governed by laws stemming from its creed or "ideology." It then adds: "Thus, in our call to apply the Islamic shari'ah we are not representing ourselves but the nation's throbbing heart and its spirit which is looking toward application of God's law and rules in all aspects of life." The last reason given in the article in that of history. It says that the rule of shari'ah in Egypt has been in effect for 13 centuries and thus this call is a call for "returning to our real roots which some of us are trying to eliminate."

MILITARIZATION OF JUDICIARY SYSTEM CRITICIZED

A 500-word article by Muhammad Shukri 'Abd-al-Fattah on page 4 deals with the issue of the militarization of the judiciary in Egypt. Starting by defining the word "militarization" as the imposition of a military regime's rules and traditions on a civilian society, the writer says that a trend toward such a militarization began with the 1952 revolution which attempted to militarize Egyptians and their society, including the judicial system, and thus deprived civilians of their right to go before civilian judges as guaranteed by the constitution and international charters. He then says the militarization takes the form of switching civilian judges to other duties and to appeals. This, he adds, involves in some cases diverting judges from their original task and turning them into "administrative employees who represent the executive authority and are under its supervision and working for it when they are put in charge of labor unions with which they have nothing to do and with whose affairs they are not familiar." On the other hand, he says, military officers are diverted from their main job of "defending the country against the enemy or foreign invasion and turned into judges in cases involving civilians." He concludes by saying that this mixes up or amalgamates the judicial and executive authorities and asserts that it "violates the constitution and threatens one of its fundamental principles, namely that of separation between authorities in the state." He adds that the Egyptian people should ponder this point and demand its rectification.

PREACHER DEMANDS TO KNOW REASONS FOR HIS DETENTION

A 200-word report on page 7 lists nine questions addressed by Wajdi Ghunaym, identified as the "famous Islamic preacher and candidate for Alexandria," from his prison to the interrogator investigating his case. His questions revolve mainly around the reasons for his detention under the terrorism law, the reasons for not bringing him to trial five months after his detention if the prosecution is convinced that he is guilty but knows that he does not practice terrorism. He finally queries the effect of his detention on his children and their education.

LABOR PARTY, ISLAMIC ALLIANCE ELECTION SLOGANS GIVEN

Page 12 is wholly devoted to the Labor Party's and Islamic Alliance's election slogans. The slogan "Islam is the solution" is printed in the middle of the page with a blue colored oval as a background. The other slogans read as follows:

"Faith. Action."
"The Labor Party..the Islamic Alliance."
"None of us has slept with a full stomach while his neighbor is hungry."
"A poor man starves because of an overfed rich one."
"Save the youths from the monster of unemployment and drugs."
"Food production and not begging."
"Corruption is our problem and not shortage of resources."
"Our candidates: -Action against negativism.
    -Pride in confronting subservience.
    -Fairness in confronting favoritism.
    -Purity in confronting corruption."
"The Islamic civilization is the heritage of the nation with its Muslims and Copts."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 10 Oct

NC1510121895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 10 October edition of the

Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Court To Hear Case Demanding Removal of Jewish Tomb in Damanhur
2. Survey Reports Expectations of Candidates, Voters From Elections
3. Islamic, Christian Men of Religion Discuss Dialogue
4. Column Stresses Importance of Unity Among Muslims
5. Writer Advises People To Apply Islam, Not To Be Drawn By Traps

COURT TO HEAR CASE DEMANDING REMOVAL OF JEWISH TOMB IN DAMANHUR

Page 1 publishes a 50-word report that the Damanhur primary court will on Saturday, 14 October hear the case submitted by Lawyer Mustafa Ruslan in which he asks that the Jewish Abu-Hasirah Tomb in Damanhur in al-Buhayrah Governorate be removed and that the rebirth festival that is held in December of every year be canceled. This is because "the Jews commit acts that go against morality and general virtue, thus hurting the feelings of the people living in the village."

SURVEY REPORTS EXPECTATIONS OF CANDIDATES, VOTERS FROM ELECTIONS

Page 8 publishes an approximately 1500-word opinion survey of candidates and voters in the elections about their impressions of and expectations from the elections, as well as other issues. One candidate, Shaykh Mansur al-Rifa'i 'Ubayd, notes that the most important thing voters should do is to actually go to the polls and vote. Shaykh Mansur 'Ubayd says: "The voters should vote for the religious candidate who frequents mosques, participates in social activities, and shows solidarity with the people." They should vote for the person who has a clear conscience and fears God.

People's Assembly member Shaykh Jamal Qutub believes that people's laziness in casting votes is "a violation of Islamic doctrine and an abandonment of duty." He notes that consultation is a religious duty for both sides—people and rulers.

The opinion survey also questions various sectors of society and the people on the street about their opinion of the candidate who does not keep his promises and buys votes either through bribery, presents, or other methods. Some of the opinions surveyed stressed the need for the candidate's honesty. He should not be nice to people before elections and then become arrogant after he wins. Some of the people surveyed say they have never cast any votes, others outright refuse to be bribed by the candidates. One citizen believes that elections do not take place in a totally honest manner. Another citizen expresses the opinion that whether he participates in the elections or not makes no difference.

ISLAMIC, CHRISTIAN MEN OF RELIGION DISCUSS DIALOGUE

Page 10 carries a 2000-word report on a meeting of Islamic and Christian scholars at al-Azhar during which they discussed dialogue between the two religions. They clarified that humanity needs peaceful coexistence among all divine religions. Al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq stresses that humanity needs peace, which is of three kinds: "peace with God" ... "peace with oneself" ... and "peace with society." He notes that "being truly religious is the best way to realize all kinds of peace."

Mufti of the Republic Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi says that in the eyes of Muslims, non-Muslims are divided into three parts: "Those who do not live with us and have their independent countries, but who are nevertheless at peace with us," ... "those who do not live with us, but declare war and aggression on us" ... and "those who live with us in peace and who are joined to us by interests and benefits, such as the Christians in Egypt."

Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey also spoke, noting that there are many common points between Islam and Christianity, particularly with regard to "social integration, abstinence from vice and immorality, and cooperation among all individuals in society of different religions to live in peace." He notes that the two religions' ignorance of each other led to the presence of psychological barriers which are based on historic misinformation and unjustified fears of the other party. He discusses the tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina and notes that it has revealed the ugly aspects of the followers of the two religions including "fanaticism and ignorance." He then notes the duties of men of religion in rectifying the mistakes made in religion throughout history. He lists four points that should be promoted by men of religion in order to increase understanding between the two religions.

COLUMN STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF UNITY AMONG MUSLIMS

Majdi Salim writes a 500-word column on page 10 in which he expresses his joy over the meetings among religious figures that have taken place recently in Cairo. One of them was on the occasion of the visit by the archbishop of Canterbury. The meeting included the al-Azhar grand imam, the mufti of the Republic, and the president of al-Azhar University, as well as the archbishop. This was a positive meeting because it showed Archbishop George Carey the unity among Muslims in Egypt. The second meeting was when the same aforementioned Islamic figures met to perform Friday prayers upon the request of the Armed Forces celebrating the October victory. This request and meeting had great significance since they revealed "the first reason for the victory that took place: unity, unity of word, unity of stance prevalent during the battle." He stresses that the Muslims have been defeated only when they were divided. He notes that Muslims must confer among themselves to agree over some points before conferring with others.

WRITER ADVISES PEOPLE TO APPLY ISLAM, NOT TO BE DRAWN BY TRAPS

Al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf writes his 500-word "A Call To Reason" column on the back page. He notes that during the meetings between the archbishop of Canterbury and religious figures in Egypt the stress was on the meaning of dialogue among religions which is based on the fact that "the origin of divine religions is one and the same, the noble and lofty values are the same, and the final objective is also the same." The men of religion also realize that the enemy they are facing is one and the same, including the marginalization of religion and calls for its liberation. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf notes that there have been many seminars and meetings to discuss the idea of dialogue among religions; some attempt to understand Islam, others to analyze the concept of political Islam, and yet others attempt to lure people and create splits and disagreements among the ulemas and thinkers of the Islamic world. The writer warns people not to be drawn by such traps. Islam does not need to justify itself, but Muslims "are required to apply Islam. This is the only correct way for us to be accepted by others whom we accept as part of our belief in our religion."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Condemns South Lebanon Attack

TA1510180695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the escalation of violence on the northern border is dangerous for all sides. [passage omitted]

Peres met PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat at the Erez crossing today. During a joint press conference, 'Arafat also condemned the attack and extended condolences to the soldiers' families.

'Arafat Leaves for Colombia Nonaligned Summit

JN1610144595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland for Colombia at noon today to attend the Nonaligned summit.

President 'Arafat will deliver a political speech at the headquarters of the UN General Assembly in New York on the 50th anniversary of its establishment.

His excellency will also visit Brazil in response to an official invitation from his Brazilian counterpart.

Cabinet Meets, Discusses Accord Implementation

JN1510155895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Report by Samih Mutayr; from the "New Day" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority's [NA] Council of Ministers held its weekly session last night under His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, said that his excellency the president submitted a detailed report on the contacts he made following his 7 October meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres with all the parties which witnessed the conclusion of the agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. The meeting with Peres produced no positive results, and the meeting between military men that followed this meeting was not an encouraging start and did not show that the Israeli side was committed to the implementation of the agreement in letter and spirit, particularly with respect to the timetables for redeployment and the release of the female prisoners.

'Abd-al-Rahim said the president sent letters to all parties concerned, including Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, to brief them on this issue

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added that the president submitted to the council the topics he will discuss with the Israeli side at his meeting with Shim'on Peres at the Erez checkpoint this evening, including the need to have the Israeli army carry out its redeployment in Janin area before the Amman economic conference and the need to withdraw from the Bethlehem area quite some time before Christmas so that preparations for the celebration of this occasion can be made, and that the date of 24 December is absolutely not suitable.

The presidency secretary general said that President Yasir 'Arafat stressed that all the justifications the Israeli side raised during the previous meeting with Peres and during the following meetings among the military are unfounded, and violate the letter and spirit of the agreement. He added that the Israeli side should remove all the obstacles it has placed to the implementation of the agreement.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added that His Excellency President 'Arafat had stressed that the NA with all its institutions and national security forces are ready to take over the areas the occupation will evacuate.

With respect to the Israeli military siege on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the president said that the stories the Israeli side uses as justification for the closure are fabricated and baseless.

The presidency secretary general said that the conferees discussed the announcement made by the extremist (Eyal) movement, a faction of the terrorist Kakh Movement, that it will kill Palestinians and Jews to foil the agreement and topple the Israeli Government. The President said that the confrontation of such extremism can take place through the immediate implementation of the agreement in letter and spirit.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the Council of Ministers authorized the brother president to form the negotiating delegation to the meeting between the president and Israeli Foreign minister Shim'on Peres today. He added that the Council of Ministers then discussed the recent Israeli violations in Hebron. The president explained that the recent Israeli measures of closing several Palestinian offices in Hebron are a flagrant violation of the agreements on the city which stipulate that all civilian responsibilities and prerogatives should be transferred to the NA as is the case for all the other West Bank cities. Article 5, page 52 also stipulates that the Hebron Municipality will continue to offer its services to all parts of the city of Hebron. From this premise, the Israeli decisions to close NA offices violate the agreement, and article 7 of Chapter I on which the Israelis have based their decision does not at all apply to the city of Hebron. 'Abd-al-Rahim stressed that the NA calls for the immediate cancellation of these measures and calls on the Israeli side to refrain from these practices and violations.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the Council of Ministers then discussed the situation of the Palestinians in Libya. President Yasir 'Arafat explained the efforts Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa exerted with the Libyan Government to suspend the expulsion operations carried out against our cities there. The council praised the Egyptian Government's efforts in this respect since an agreement was reached to deport 100, and the others will return to Libya.

The Presidency's secretary general added that the Council of Ministers decided to follow up this important issue, which takes up much of the attention of the National Authority and the Palestinian people, wherever they are. The Council also decided to form a committee which comprises the minister of social affairs; the health minister; the minister of justice; and brother Na'im Abu-al-Hummus, under secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education — to study the employment of these Palestinian experts, each according to his own specialty.

The Presidency's secretary general added that the president briefed the Council on details of projects he requested from the Islamic Bank, which are estimated at $30 million out of $100 million Saudi Arabia promised to offer through the donor states. The $30 million was deducted from the $100 million according to an agreement between the president and His Majesty King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques. The president said that priority will given to projects in Jerusalem and Hebron. He said he asked the Islamic Bank to double the amount of money that must be offered to us. It is not logical for the Islamic Bank to offer greats sums of money to oil countries, while it only allocates us $1.4 million. Al-Tayyib 'Abd- al-Rahim said that the Council decided that the president and Minister of Economy and Trade Ahmad Quray' follow the implementation of these projects with the Islamic Bank. The Council also delegated the president to appoint a resident and full-time governor at the Islamic Bank in charge of meeting the needs of the Palestinian people and establishing their infrastructure.

The Presidency's secretary general added that Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, presented the plan prepared for the donor states conference due to be held in Paris between 17 and 19 October. The plan contains $500 million worth of investment projects for the infrastructure and economic development in addition to $50 million in loan guarantees and $75 million to support the budget. The most important provisions of the budget include $135 million for water, drainage, and sewage projects; $53 million for housing; $55 million to build new schools; $35 million to build hospitals and health clinics; and $25 million for other infrastructure projects; $38 million for electricity; $32 million for transportation; $35 million to develop the municipalities; $34 million to support the private industrial sector; $15 million for non-governmental corporations projects; $15 million to install computers at government departments; $12 million to repatriate

Palestinian experts; and $10 million for the Palestinian monetary authority.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the Council approved this plan and delegated the Ministry of Planning to implement it in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as the new agreement enters implementation in the West Bank. He added that the minister of planning and international cooperation also presented a detailed picture of bilateral aid projects signed with European countries during the past three months which are worth $185 million. These include building the port and airport, water and sewage projects, housing, energy, education, health, transportation, agriculture, and tourism. Moreover, money was allocated for freed prisoners, the creation of job opportunities, police, and local administrations. He also explained the current system of coordinating aid through the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The Council approved these agreements and recommended expediting the drawing up of the Palestinian economic plan, which sets the priorities and objectives. The Council also recommended more coordination with the Ministry of Local Government regarding municipalities' projects. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added that the Council of Ministers went on to discussing the elections draft law, which is still under discussion. The elections committee will complete the final version of the draft law to be presented to the Council of Ministers next week.

Moreover, Minister of Local Government Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat presented the final version of the new municipalities draft law. The draft law was distributed to the ministers for study and discussion for ratification at the Council of Ministers' next meeting. 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the Ministry of Local Government had presented a first and second version of the municipalities draft law and held workshops to discuss it in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. All proposals, amendments, and additions presented by the competent parties and figures were integrated into the final draft.

Acting PNC Speaker on Charter, Elections

JN1310184195 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 10 Oct 95 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—AL-YAWM—Salim al-Za'nun, acting Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker, has said that Israel has no right to demand the cancellation of the Palestinian National Charter. He added that the Palestinian Authority has the right to call on the PNC to convene.

He said that conditions for cancelling the Palestinian National Charter should be available first, or else it is impossible to cancel any of the charter's provisions. The most prominent of these prerequisites are a full withdrawal from the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, and the release of all male and female prisoners to give them the opportunity to take part in the upcoming elections. This is in addition to allowing all PNC members, including the opposition abroad and in Syria, to return to the West Bank as citizens, not visitors.

Asked about the Palestinian legislative council elections, al- Za'nun said the elections are due to be held in April 1996. He added: We look forward to this day when the Palestinian people will have their say and turn out 82 members of the Palestinian National Authority's legislative council.

Al-Za'nun stressed the need to implement the Taba agreement without any obstacles.

Fatah Warns Against Accord Implementation Delay

JN1410153595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement issued following an emergency meeting, the Higher Organizational Committee of Fatah Movement cautioned against the serious consequences of Israel's procrastination in implementing the agreement on the second stage of the Declaration of Principles, particularly with respect to scheduling the occupation troops' withdrawal from the densely- populated areas and releasing female and male prisoners.

The Organizational Committee called for a large-scale campaign of solidarity with the prisoners and for supporting the Palestinian Prisoners' Association. It called on the Palestinian masses to rally behind and support the National Authority [NA] in order to restore rights and help the NA expand in all the Palestinian lands in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Shaykh Expects Hamas To Participate in Elections

JN1610152795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, one of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip, expected Hamas to take part in the upcoming Palestinian legislative elections.

Bahr expressed hope that the National Authority [NA] and Hamas will reach an agreement soon in order to bolster national unity.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Islamic Movement inside the green line, said that following his meeting with President Yasir 'Arafat at the presidential headquarters in Gaza today, he received an invitation from Arafat's adviser Dr. Ahmad al- Tibi to attend the meetings between delegations of the NA and Hamas, which are expected to be held soon.

He revealed that he held contacts with the NA members to employ pressure on the Israeli Government in order to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

Gaza Closure Lifted; $6 Million Daily Loss

JN1710090595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli occupation forces lifted the military closure imposed on the Gaza Strip at dawn today. The closure lasted for three weeks on the pretext of curbing any anti-Israeli operations during the Jewish holidays.

Thousands of Palestinian workers in the Gaza Strip went to work within the green line. The Israeli side allowed only those with work permits who are over 35 years of age to enter. Lieutenant Colonel Jihad Sarhan, Palestinian officer in charge at the Erez crossing, said only about 12,000 out of the 15,000 workers with work permits were able to go to work. Lt. Col. Sarhan said this number was not enough, considering the unfavorable economic situation in the Gaza Strip. Workers who waited at the Erez crossing, hoping they would be allowed to go to work, expressed dissatisfaction with the Israeli measures. Some said these measures contravene the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

The workers' movement at the Erez crossing was limited due to the entry terms imposed by the Israeli occupation forces. The Palestinian workers said they should all be allowed to go to their work in the green line. They urged the Israeli government to lift the military closure completely and to cancel the terms on workers' entry.

It is noteworthy that the National Authority lost a daily sum of six million dollars due to the closure imposed by Israel. This is what President 'Arafat said following his recent meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Commercial Strike, Rally in Support of Prisoners

TA1410140395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Commercial strikes are being observed in most Palestinian towns of the West Bank today, and school classes have not been held. According to our Arab affairs reporter Yoni Ben-Menahem, the strikes were called by the Association of West Bank Prisoners as an expression of solidarity with the Palestinian men and women prisoners demanding to be released from Israeli jails. In Gaza a short while ago, several thousand high school children held a demonstration demanding the release of all Palestinian prisoners still imprisoned by Israel.

New Head of Autonomy Security Profiled

TA1310144895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 13 Oct 95 pp 6, 7

[Article by Nadav Ha'etzni: "The Promotion of General Isma'il al-Hajj"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr first crossed the Jordan River some 18 months ago, he was in far from good shape. He had just ended a long trip that started in Iraq, and took him across the Hashemite Kingdom, via the Allenby Bridge, to Jericho. Exhausted and disoriented, he met an embarrassed receiving line of senior Israeli officers of the Central Command and asked them for a basic briefing: Where are we, the al-Aqsa Brigade of the Palestinian Liberation Army, stationed? What is the size of the Jericho autonomy? What is our mission? Isma'il was not ashamed to admit that no one in the Palestinian camp had bothered to provide him with these marginal details, nor has anyone provided him with the text of the agreement that had been signed in Cairo a few days earlier. All the information he ever received was a phone call from Tunis which, more or less, handed him an order: "Take your brigade and go to Jericho. They will explain it all to you there."

After being briefed for several hours, al-Hajj Isma'il became the military commander of the Palestinian autonomy in Jericho, starting complex and winding relationships with both his Palestinian comrades and Israeli counterparts. His affair with the Israelis started off on the wrong foot. Right from the start, the general kept complaining about the minuscule territory he has been assigned to. Time after time, he asked to be allowed to come out of Jericho and demonstrate his skills in additional places, Hebron for example.

At the beginning of last week, however, it was officially announced that al-Hajj Isma'il had been appointed head of the National Guard. At long last, he was rewarded for long years of loyalty to his commander and benefactor, Yasir 'Arafat. The man who 18 months ago crossed the border with 850 policemen will officially head an armed Palestinian force of 12,000 police in the beginning which, judging from the experience of Gaza, will soon exceed 20,000. The appointment will soon be given the appropriate symbolic wrapup: He will be promoted from brigadier general to major general.

Last week, Isma'il held two long working sessions with Major General Ilan Biran, commander of Central Command, and Brigadier General Gabi Ofir, commander of the Judaea and Samaria Division. This was ample proof that al-Hajj Isma'il has become a major player. Nevertheless, having an interesting job and being respected by others is only one side of the coin. The other side is the Israeli and Palestinian expectations. Israeli expectations are particularly interesting because a significant part of the new Israeli security concept is based on the performance of the Palestinian forces and their newly appointed commander.

Al-Hajj Isma'il, a tall, pleasant, and impressive man, has more than once promised senior Israelis and Palestinians to relentlessly hunt down "the enemies of peace." He kept claiming that he can deliver the goods if only given a chance. Now he will be asked to deliver.

Nevertheless, both Israelis and Palestinians are skeptical about his chances of success. Isma'il's official appointment does not yet grant him a real status because it is not yet clear who would be subject to the new commander. He does not take orders from General Nasr Yusuf, a veteran officer who, officially — as head of the Palestinian security forces in Gaza and Jericho — is senior to Isma'il. From his early days in Jericho, Isma'il refused to receive Yusuf in Jericho. He did not even answer calls from other generals, such as 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahyah. As far as is known, Isma'il's relations with some generals have improved recently, but he still takes orders from 'Arafat alone.

The problem is that neither his associates nor his future subordinates intend to come under his command. The autonomous areas will enjoy a colorful array of security apparatuses and chiefs: Al-Hajj Isma'il will be head of the National Guard; Jibril al-Rujub will remain head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service; Tawfiq Tirawi will be head of the General Security Service; Faysal Abu-Sharah will head Force- 17; Abu-Yusuf al-Wahidi will head the Presidential Security Service; and Ghazi al-Jabali, head of the Gaza police, will probably be appointed head of the blue police force after he moves to Ramallah.

And that is not all. Several commanders of the PLO elimination apparatus, the Western Sector Command, arrived in Jericho last week. Headed by Mustafa al-Liftawi, better known as Abu-Firas, they will move to Judaea and Samaria cities and function as something between local governors and regional security officers. The Palestinian pressure to let them into the territory coincided with the new Israeli view that strong men must be found in the Palestinian top echelons who will be able to deal with terror. There is no telling, however, how they will function alongside all the other top brass, including al-Hajj Isma'il.

Incidentally, this is not the end of the list of senior PLO officers who live abroad, have packed out, and are waiting for 'Arafat to keep his promises. Among the most prominent of them are Gens. Abu-al-Za'im ['Atallah 'Atallah] and Abu-al-Tayyib [Mahmud al-Natur], commanders of historical Force-17. Under these conditions, it is not at all clear how newly appointed Gen. Isma'il will deal with the situation.

Isma'il Jabr was born in the Gaza Strip's Dayr al-Balah 53 years ago. Having joined the "Organization for the Liberation of Palestine" in 1965, he participated in the move from Jordan to Lebanon. He was appointed deputy commander of the south Lebanese sector, and he commanded the Sidon and southern sector on the eve of the Lebanon War. On his orders, Galilee townships were shelled and countless terrorist infiltrations were carried out.

Yet al-Hajj Isma'il's Lebanese adventure had a sorry ending. As soon as the Israeli invasion began, the military commander disappeared from the battlefield, and it was later learned that he took an ambulance to al-Biqa' as soon as he heard the first shots. There were some who claimed he absconded with money that was not his to take. The fact that the flight from Sidon did not harm the general's promotion was later the main grounds for a major uprising, led by Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], against 'Arafat.

Al-Hajj Isma'il categorically denies all the charges. He claims he acted under explicit orders to marshal all the troops in al-Biqa' and accuses the Israelis of inventing the "flight falsehood" as part of their psychological warfare against the PLO. Yet the Palestinians, and particularly his rivals in the upper echelons, have not forgotten that affair.

Al-Hajj continued to rise in the PLO hierarchy after the war. He was appointed deputy commander of the Palestinian Liberation Army's al-'Aqsa battalion, which was stationed in Iraq. After the battalion commander defected to join an uprising led by his brother Abu-al-Za'im, al-Hajj Isma'il was given the command. For many years he and his troops lived in Saddam Husayn's country, until the day he received that hasty order to pack up and move to Jericho.

Jericho seemed quiet and peaceful this week. Although gunfire at an Israeli car driving on the main road was reported 10 October, as far as the local residents were concerned, no special events had taken place. Numerous soldiers, clad in a variety of uniforms and hats, were seen ambling through the peaceful streets.

The township experienced many upheavals under the auspices of commander Isma'il Jabr. First, the sleepy, forgotten township became the army and government center. The change was not favorable, however. For months the residents, groaning under the burdensome presence of the large security presence, complained of severe persecutions and human rights violations. This aspect has slightly improved in recent months, but the complaints about the economic situation and the corruption in upper echelons have increased. Local restaurants, which anticipated an economic boom, stand empty because Israelis and tourists are too nervous to go in. Even Palestinian soldiers and civilian employees complain about their conditions. An ordinary policeman makes about 800 shekels a month, while an experienced teacher's salary is 1,200 shekels. No wonder so many policemen moonlight at anything available.

On the other hand, persistent rumors have it that local senior officials have been turning handsome profits. The rumors do not exclude military commander al-Hajj Isma'il. There is no doubt that many of the complaints about the Palestinian rule's ailments are not directed against al-Hajj Isma'il personally. Contrary to colleague Jibril al-Rujub, he is not accused of oppressing or torturing anyone, or of violating human rights. The opposite is true. Most people speak of al-Hajj's pleasant mien. And yet this is the source of the charges against him: The town's problematic character was dictated by others, and the general did nothing to prevent them.

In inner circles, al-Hajj has expressed reservations about the town's turning into a refuge for terrorists and criminals, but he did not wage a serious struggle to prevent it. His tense relationship with Jibril al-Rujub is public knowledge, but despite commanding hundreds of armed warriors ready for battle, he has never dared to declare an open war on him.

Essentially, this is what his opponents charge. They maintain that al-Hajj's talent lies merely in his unreserved loyalty to 'Arafat. "He is a man who will never jeopardize his personal comfort, who lacks the guts and the will to really fight for his stands," one of his acquaintances claims. "He prefers to conduct quiet campaigns, full of intrigue, which often fail. Sometimes this trait is the source of his power: Look how he was the one to get this appointment from 'Arafat."

There is no lack of examples of the man's weakness. His critics note his conduct during a conflict around the decision to divert the flow of water for irrigation about nine months ago. The charge is that the general tried to avoid any involvement in the affair, was afraid to take a firm stance, and as a result, enabled a coalition comprising Jibril al-Rujub and an officer by the name of Munzir Arshad to defy 'Arafat's explicit decision.

The second case, which took place about three months ago, involved the assassination of 'Abd-al-Khatib, one of Ramallah's richest men. The assassin fled to Jericho, where he came under Jibril al-Rujub's aegis. Al-Hajj Isma'il demanded that 'Arafat probe the affair, and in retaliation, leaflets directly threatening him were disseminated in the town. 'Arafat, who came under a series of pressures, agreed to set up an investigation committee to find the culprits. In practice, nothing was done.

It was the Israeli defense establishment that gave al-Hajj Isma'il a new lease on life. The relations between him and Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran, the Southern Command chief, were tense for a long time. There was Biran's memorable threat "to conquer Jericho in five minutes." There were also periods when the town came under closure on security grounds and because of its new status as a safe haven for terrorists. The Shin Bet top brass were not too eager to talk to the general, either, although they maintained an open channel of communication with their favorite, al-Rujub. Lately, however, the dialogue and the intimacy between al-Hajj Isma'il and Biran and his various associates have improved.

Some Israeli establishment members maintain that we misunderstand the Palestinian establishment, thereby creating tensions rather than settling them. They charge: "He is being asked to carry out tasks that he has no chance of doing. We cannot convene large forums to order him to carry out a military operation, or to announce publicly that certain wanted men are hiding in Jericho, and then to demand that he extradite them. If the relevant officials work with him quietly, in small forums, if they brief him in time, and not four days after they brief al-Rujub, there is a chance he will deliver the goods. He has studied us, and he is now familiar with facts that were Greek to him at the beginning, such as the relationships between the various Israeli elements, for instance. Time will tell how he will perform. We must not forget, however, that his performance does not depend solely on us or him."

Security Chief Comments on Redeployment

TA1310193695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Interview with Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, head of Public Security Service in the West Bank, by

Fayiz 'Umar in Jericho; date not given; from "The Week in One Hour" feature — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Umar] Have you drawn up an agreed upon plan and strategy with regard to coordination between the Palestinian and Israeli sides after redeployment is implemented?

[Jabr] Yes, meetings are continuing with the Israeli side in order to study the joint arrangements, whether regarding the transfer of forces, acquaintanceship between commanders, familiarization with outposts and headquarters, or the nature of handing and taking over. All these issues are being studied with the Israeli side on different levels.

['Umar] On the day of withdrawal from Janin and elsewhere the likelihood exists that confrontations might take place between the youth and the Israeli army. How will you address this problem if it occurs?

[Jabr] The arrangements we are making now, as well as the preparations and studies to confront all anticipated problems, will definitely prevent the occurrence of the expectations that you mentioned. The redeployment will be carried out peacefully and the Palestinian forces will take over in a peaceful and normal way because this is part of our task. Certainly, our kinsfolk in all the areas, whether in Janin or elsewhere, will not create problems or difficulties for us that will hinder redeployment.

['Umar] Al-Hajj, on this occasion, how many soldiers are expected to arrive in the West Bank to take over after redeployment?

[Jabr] In the first stage there will be 6,000 men from the Palestinian Public Security Service.

['Umar] When will they enter the territories?

[Jabr] As soon as agreement is reached on a timetable and we start implementing it.

['Umar] Regarding the bypass roads and joint patrols, will these patrols begin operating immediately after redeployment?

[Jabr] The joint patrols are supposed to begin operating a few days before redeployment. The same applies to the bypass roads, which we hope will have been completed by the Israeli side so that there will not be another pretext which the Israeli side might use not to complete its redeployment throughout the Bethlehem and Ramallah areas.

['Umar] If settlers or Israelis file a complaint that they have been assaulted by Palestinians, which legal measures will be adopted in such cases?

[Jabr] There are provisions in the agreement on how to deal with this issue, and within the framework of the joint forces' work they will intervene immediately to address such events. But we hope that such incidents will not occur, and we will exert efforts so that [words indistinct] comprehensive peace in the region.

['Umar] Al-Hajj Isma'il, have you distributed the administrative and leading positions in the towns from which redeployment will take place, and has the right person been placed in the right job?

[Jabr] In accordance with the instructions of his excellency the president, key officials have been appointed in the territories. They are the right persons in the right jobs.

['Umar] Regarding the two returnees, al-'Alul and al-Liftawi, do you believe that they will reconcile their military and civilian views and be able to apply them in practice?

[Jabr] Yes. Those struggling brother returnees will assume their responsibilities in the peace process, as they did in the march of the long struggle. I believe that they are sincere soldiers of peace and that they will assume their tasks in the service of the homeland and peace for the sake of creating a just peace in the region.

['Umar] Will they serve as soldiers in the peace process in order to dissipate Israeli fears?

[Jabr] Yes. There should be no fears. The Israelis must be sure that those brothers, as well as all the brothers who have arrived in the homeland, are soldiers of peace because we are owners of a right. We seek a just peace and want to establish our Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Al-Qassam Brigades Said Ready To Halt Action

TA1310153895 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 12 Oct 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by Munir Abu-Rizq]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza — AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH has learned from informed sources that a secret meeting was held two nights ago between officials of the security service and wanted activists from the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Leaked information indicates that the Brigades expressed their readiness to help the National Authority [NA] develop the Oslo accord in different ways, including halting military action, which Israel uses as a pretext to tighten its grip on the NA and its territory.

Moreover, AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH has learned that the Khartoum delegation headed by Shaykh Isma'il Haniyah, a prominent Hamas leader inside the territories during the intifadah, was carrying a draft agreement with the NA in order to persuade the leadership abroad to approve it, rather than bring new proposals.

On the same level, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar has said that Hamas' decisions are made inside and that an official Hamas delegation will be formed as soon as the mediation delegation to Khartoum reaches a formula of understanding with Hamas' leadership abroad. He added, however, that the outside Hamas is a principal part of the decisionmaking because Hamas is not a regional organization.

Al-Zahhar said that this delegation will sign any agreement reached with the NA. He expressed the hope that a Palestinian society free of tensions and differences will be created and that all the movement's detainees will be released from NA prisons.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH, al-Zahhar stressed that every issue is subject to negotiations with the NA, including military action, and that Hamas will comply with everything that will serve the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Arab-Israeli Talks

Peres, 'Arafat Meet at Erez Checkpoint

TA1510131095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1225 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar at the Erez checkpoint in the Gaza Strip]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting between Foreign Minister Peres and Yasir 'Arafat, which has just ended, was described as a good one. Let us hear Shim'on Peres on the matter:

[Begin Peres recording] The most important thing we achieved was setting a date for the elections. We believe a definite date, set far in advance, is a constructive factor, since it puts the negotiations within a definite framework. As a matter of fact, we have resolved all the disputed issues. [end recording]

The elections in the territories will be held no later than 22 January — namely, prior to Ramadan. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] departure from Janin will take place on 25 October, after which one additional town will be evacuated every week. The IDF will evacuate a total of six towns, not including Hebron. The Hebron issue will be discussed in future negotiations.

[Begin Peres recording] We do not deal with the political aspects, only with terrorism. We will not permit a terrorist organization to participate in the elections, but anyone who renounces the warpath and wishes to participate in the elections will be able to do so. [end recording]

Shim'on Peres stressed that Israel will not oppose the participation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the elections, provided it becomes a political organization.

Asked about the emerging agreement between the PLO, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad, Yasir 'Arafat said that negotiations are indeed taking place. He refused to elaborate. Peres said Israel would not object to the inclusion of Hamas.

The closure issue was also brought up at the meeting. 'Arafat said that each day of the closure costs the Palestinian Authority $6 million.

Hold News Conference

JN1510161895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Erez area this afternoon. After the meeting, President 'Arafat and Peres held a news conference there.

The two sides agreed to start redeployment in the town of Janin on 25 October. They also agreed on continuing redeployment, except in Hebron, every week provided that it will be completed before the end of this year. The two sides also agreed to complete the redeployment in Bethlehem before Christian celebrations begin.

President 'Arafat said the cabinet will meet to decided on the legislative elections issue. He added: We are interested in holding these elections as soon as possible, so Palestinian elections will not coincide with the Israeli election campaign. He asserted that Peres and Rabin promised him to end the problem of the Palestinian female prisoners as soon as possible.

Regarding the participation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement in the coming Palestinian elections, President 'Arafat said: This is up to Hamas and to any other political group. He stressed that the Palestinian arena is democratic, adding that there is a dialogue between the National Authority [NA] and Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and some other opposition organizations.

President 'Arafat said the NA respects democracy and seeks to preserve it under the difficult circumstances. He added that Peres promised him to end the military siege imposed on the Gaza Strip on Tuesday. 'Arafat said the NA loses $6 million every day as a result of this siege.

Regarding the safe passages, the president said: This is an issue that has been agreed upon, and there is a timetable on starting work on these roads.

On his part, Peres pointed out that Palestinian elections will be held before the beginning of Ramadan. He added that they discussed ways to prepare the NA for the coming Christmas celebrations.

President 'Arafat and Peres held a closed meeting lasting approximately 30 minutes. Afterward, delegations from both sides joined the meeting. It is noteworthy that the Palestinian delegation comprised Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture; Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civil affairs; Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya; Major General Ziyad al-Atrash; Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr; and Brigadier General Muhammad Dahlan.

The Israeli delegation comprised Uri Savir, director general of the Foreign Ministry; Oren Shahor; General Ilan Biran; and (Azi Kil).

Withdrawal Dates From West Bank Cities Detailed

JN1610073295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian source said that the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces and the entrance of the Palestinian police in the Tulkarm area will begin on 19 November and end on 10 December. In Nabulus and Qalqilyah, the Israeli withdrawal will begin on 26 November and end on 17 December.

In Bethlehem, the withdrawal and the entrance of the Palestinian police will begin on 13 December. In Ramallah and nearby villages, the Israeli withdrawal will begin on 10 December and end in the same month.

The Palestinian source added that the forces of occupation will withdraw from Hebron next April. Special arrangements will be made in Hebron before and after the legislative elections.

At a joint news conference following his meeting with His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, yesterday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the forces of occupation will begin withdrawing from Janin city and its villages on 25 October.

Algeria

Commercial Director of Newspaper Assassinated

LD1610145395 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd Al-Wahab Sa'daoui, the commercial director of the newspaper AL-SHA'B, has been assassinated. The crime took place in Chattia, Chlef Province, where he was kidnapped from his home. The deceased had been working at AL-CHA'B newspaper for 24 years. The security forces found his body yesterday.

Journalist, Driver Killed in Algiers

LD1610233595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2300 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our colleague, Ms. Saida Djebaili, from [the Algerian paper] AL-HAYAT AL-ARABIA, and Mr. Lazhari Ahmed Mustapha, the driver who was accompanying her, were assassinated late this afternoon. At 1820 hours the two victims, who were aboard a Volkswagen van, came under fire near the housing estate of Cite Skassini, formerly known as Beau Fraisier, in Algiers. Saidi Djebaili was 27 and Lazhari Ahmed Mustapha was 23.

Such a barbaric act against journalists or any other misdeed by the terrorists, particularly in this pre-electoral period, can only strengthen the determination all sections of society to pursue its mission and fulfill its role whatever the difficulties.

Sifi Addresses Economic, Social National Council

LD1410145495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning at the Palace of Nations in the Club de Pin the proceedings of the fourth session of the Economic and Social National Council began with the attendance of Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi. The meeting is scheduled to last for three days to discuss a number of issues, including the new cities and the comprehensive strategy for housing. On the proceedings of the first day radio correspondent Ahmed Khida reports:

[Khinda] Do not be afraid of the satisfied, but beware of the hungry when satisfied. This popular proverb was cited by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi an hour and a half ago before the members of the National Economic and Social Council at their fourth session at the Palace of Nations. This popular proverb came within a reply to what the prime minister described as the campaign backed by some papers against the work of his government. He went on to say that what is going on are backyard battles. Mr. Mokdad Sifi gave four examples. He said [there is] talk about the savage privatization and the giving away of public institutions for a cheap price and the speedy movement towards liberalism, then we suddenly hear another tone in the same paper raising the question of delay in the process of privatization and the slowness in the pace of reforms.

Another example, the prime minister says is that on the one hand, an information campaign is organized on the free imports of equatorial fruits and luxury goods, and on the other hand, the government is blamed for levying tariffs on the import of such goods.

Mr. Mokdad Sifi gives another example and says one day people talk about the exorbitant cost of cleaning up the government institutions and on another day the question of thousands of workers, who are waiting for their wages, is raised with a lot of clamor.

Some people express their regret one day, the prime minister says, for the absence of the government from the scene and on the following day it is blamed for its excessive movement in the field and is asked not to do much lest it affect the elections, as he put it.

The prime minister concludes his series of examples by saying there are some who wrote: This government has lasted very long. The prime minister described all this as base politics.

It is to be noted in this respect that the prime minister was replying to those who blamed the government for its moves. There were political figures among the candidates to the presidency who considered this move an election campaign in favor of a certain party.

Mr. Mokdad Sifi raised the issue openly as the current controversy on this point focuses on what is the extent of neutrality of the administration [in the election]. In this respect, Mr. Sifi said this government and administration are working in total and strict neutrality and instructions have been given to apply it and they will not be biased to any candidate. The administration should not be used to explain the failure or success of any side.

What is the job of this government then? The prime minister recalled that this government was an economic government and the political side of it was to be on the side of Algeria, as he said, by pushing the people to cast their vote.

The speech of the prime minister also contained an assessment of the achievements of his government. In this respect he preferred to resort to comparisons; comparing 1993 to 1994; although, his government came to power in April 1994.

The expected rate of growth of 3.5 [percent] was not achieved; however, the government had started from a negative rate of growth estimated at minus 2, as the prime minister said. There were 80,000 housing units built in 1994 and 160,000 houses are expected to be built this year. There were 120,000 jobs created during 1994 and some 240,000 jobs are expected to be created in the current year. In 1993, only 40,000 houses were built and only 60,000 jobs were created. Naturally, this is not enough and the government is looking for more assistance from its partners, such as the National Economic and Social Council, which is holding today its fourth session.

Presidential Candidates Allocated TV, Radio Time

LD1610193095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In six days' time the official election campaign will begin for the four persons who are candidates in the presidential election, the first round of which is scheduled for 16 November. Awaiting the date of the election campaign, the independent National Commission for Monitoring the Election this afternoon supervised the commencement of the drawing of lots relating to the distribution of the slots to be allocated to each candidate — or who stands in for him — on TV and radio, in its three channels. The operation is still going on. The slots have been limited to three hours for each candidate on TV, and another three hours on each one of the three radio channels. This period will be divided over 23 days as from 22 October until 13 November.

By way of time units, the duration of each unit will be five minutes; each candidate's choice will not exceed three units a day or a quarter of an hour at any one time. The dates are three with regard to the TV, and four for the radio channels. All these will be transmitted prior to the main news bulletins. In addition to these slots, it was agreed to allocate an intervention for each candidate, the duration of which will be five minutes. These will be transmitted on radio and TV on 1 November on account of latter being an historic day. It was also agreed that all interventions will be recorded 24 hours ahead of its transmission time.

Update on Media Time Allocation

LD1610224895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening the process of drawing lots in connection with the use of the public media by the candidates who have fulfilled the conditions required for entering into the first round of the presidential election took place at the headquarters of the national independent commission for monitoring the presidential election. The process of drawing lots was attended by the representatives of the candidates who are going into the first round, members of the national independent commission for monitoring the presidential election, the director of television, and representatives from the three radio channels. The process of drawing lots is to allocate time slots to the candidates who will wage the election campaign, which will commence on 22 October in the public media. The executive decree that the national independent commission for monitoring the presidential election will implement gives each candidate during the election campaign three hours on national television and three hours on each channel of the national radio. Three time slots have been granted to the candidates for using the TV, which will be transmitted 30 minutes before the main newscasts, and four time slots on the three radio channels; these will be transmitted also 30 minutes before the news bulletins. As for the first of November [the anniversary of the Algerian revolution], a time slot of an additional five minutes — beside the three hours granted to the candidates — shall be given to each candidate of the first round of election; this will be transmitted within the 2000 hours [1900 GMT] TV newscast and within the 1300 hours [1200 GMT] news bulletins on radio on its three channels.

With regard to the interventions scheduled for first of November, the first speaker, according to the process of drawing lots, will be Mr. Liamine Zeroual; he will be followed by Mr. Noureddine Boukrouh, then Mr. Said Saadi, and then Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah. Agreement was reached between the national independent commission for monitoring the election and the representatives of the candidates that the recording of the slots that will be transmitted on TV and radio shall be made 24 hours in advance of the time of transmission.

Presidential Candidate Boukrouh Interviewed

LD1410143995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1226 GMT on 14 October carries an installment in its series of phone-in interviews with presidential hopefuls. Today is the turn of Noureddine Boukrouh, leader of the Algerian Party of Renewal.

Most questions directed to Mr. Boukrouh concern the political situation in the country, unemployment, youth, national identity, education, and social justice. Mr. Boukrouh is then asked by a listener how he would tackle, if elected, the political map of the country and how would he deal with the parties of the opposition which have boycotted the elections, as well as with the FIS; reception is completely and suddenly lost as Mr.

Boukrouh mentions the FIS, Islamic Salvation Front, and states that he is prepared to see what he can do to end the political crisis in the country.

The station is not heard for seven minutes. When reception is restored, Mr. Boukrouh is heard to say goodbye.

FIS Asks France Not To Support Elections

BR1610142895 Paris LE FIGARO in French 14 Oct 95 p 7

[Interview with unidentified members of the FIS foreign executive office, by Jean-Paul Picaper; place and date not given: "We Do Not Use Threats"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Picaper] The GIA [Armed Islamic Group] has claimed responsibility for the latest attacks committed in France. In an interview with LE FIGARO (Footnote 1) (In the 10 October edition of LE FIGARO), Anouar Haddam — president of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] parliamentary delegation abroad and a refugee in Washington — felt that the communique was a forgery. Do you think so too?

[Unidentified member of FIS executive foreign office] We do not represent the GIA, so we can neither confirm nor deny this communique.

[Picaper] What do you think of the letter sent by the GIA to Jacques Chirac in August demanding that he convert to Islam?

[FIS] Conversion to Islam is a matter of personal conscience. Everyone is free to choose, without obligation or constraint, the religion which conforms to their convictions. Allah put it like this: "I say that the truth emanates from your lord. May those who so wish believe in him; may those who do not so wish not believe in him" (Koran XVII, 29).

[Picaper] In a FIS communique, with regard to the upcoming meeting between Chirac and Zeroual you talked about "French provocation" and you sent a "warning" to our country. Are those threats?

[FIS] We do not use threats in our political relations with countries. We seek to persuade people and draw people's attention to positions which we feel are incorrect, especially when they concern our people and our country. It is also our right and our duty to notify all countries of abuses of their policies which affect our country. We consider the normalization of relations with the juntas (the Islamist term for the Algerian Government — LE FIGARO editor's note) as support and encouragement for the putschists to stay in power. We are asking France, a democratic country which respects the will of the people, to respect the will of the Algerian people and therefore not to support the presidential elections that have been cobbled together.

[Picaper] But Jacques Chirac said that he wanted to convince General Zeroual to hold democratic general elections that are open to everyone, like the FIS is calling for.

[FIS] There are many channels of communication between France and the government in Algiers. Jacques Chirac could have sent his message without having this meeting.

[Picaper] Do you really support a political solution?

[FIS] We have clearly established our conviction that a change is needed. We expressed this by signing the national contract in Rome with the main opposition parties. We want a truly political solution enabling the people to freely choose their representatives at all levels. This means that the priority is to bring back peace, stability, and a normal life.

[Picaper] Is it not normal that Paris wants to eradicate terrorism in France? When someone declares war on a state, surely that state must protect its citizens' lives.

[FIS] We are not denouncing the policy of prosecuting the people who set the bombs. On the contrary, we made an appeal in your newspaper (Footnote 2) (Interview with Rabah Kebir in the 3 August 1995 edition of LE FIGARO: "We Are Not Targeting France) for all light to be shed on those who ordered and carried out these acts. However, we do denounce the use of security policy to attack the dignity of Muslims and to put pressure on the Islamic opposition abroad, with the procession of arbitrary arrests, expulsions, and detentions without charge.

UN Urged To Demand Justice for Saharans

LD1210154395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramadan Lamamra, Algeria's permanent representative to the United Nations, yesterday urged the fourth UN committee in charge of issues related to decolonisation to lend all its political weight to demand a fair and just report for the fate of the Saharan people.

Egypt

Muslim Brotherhood Members Arrested, Tried

Interrogation of Suspects Detailed

NC1410165495 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Oct 95 p 22

[Report by Ahmad Musa]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office has made several charges against recently arrested suspects who are members of the banned "Muslim Brotherhood" group. The charges include funding terrorist groups, preventing state institutions from carrying out their functions, and assaulting citizens' personal liberty.

Investigations have revealed that some of the accused traveled to several countries, including Sudan, to coordinate their positions with the Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood and Hasan al-Turabi's National Islamic Front [NIF]. They collected funds from several countries to finance the banned Brotherhood's activities. They sent young members abroad to receive training in the use of weapons in countries where there are regional conflicts—with the aim of bringing these trainees back to Egypt.

The Prosecutor's Office remanded all the suspects for 15 days. It ordered that audio and video cassettes seized with the suspects be sent to the forensic laboratory for examination and instructed some of the suspects to provide handwriting samples These samples will be compared with the handwriting used in seized documents and leaflets to which the suspects deny any connection.

Counselor Hisham Saraya, attorney general of the Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office, two days ago instructed a large team of investigators to interrogate the suspects, who are leading members of the defunct Muslim Brotherhood. The investigators are: District Attorneys Yasir Rifa'i, 'Ali al-Hawwari, Usamah Qandil, Hani Barham, Hisham Badawi, 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Halawani, and Sharif 'Abd-al-Nabi'; Deputy District Attorneys Muhammad Hilmi Qandil, 'Umar Hilal, Faruq Hilal, Husam Hilal, Hisham 'Abd-al-Mu'ti, and Ashraf al-'Ashmawi; and Assistant District Attorneys Walid al-Minshawi, Khalid al-Shalaqami, and Ayman al-Shafi'i. They confronted the suspects with numerous documents and strong evidence seized by security forces inside the suspects' residences. According to the confessions made, some of the suspects traveled legally to several countries including the United States, Sudan, Yemen, Turkey, Germany, and Britain, on the instructions of the Brotherhood's leadership to coordinate with sympathizers living in those countries and to collect funds for the Brotherhood. During the investigations, some of the suspects denied that there is an organization called the "Muslim Brotherhood" and denied any connection with such a group in order to dissociate themselves from the accusations made against them by the interrogators. Other suspects maintained during the interrogation that they are adherents to the Brotherhood's peaceful ideology.

The intensive interrogation of the suspects touched on the subject of financial assistance—proven and documented by the State Security Detection Agency—that the organization provided to terrorists and to the families of wanted fugitives, convicts, and detainees to rally popular support for actions that the Brotherhood was planning in order to undermine security and stability and incite disturbances. The Brotherhood's leadership sent large sums of money to branch leaders in Asyut, al-Minya, and Alexandria Governorates for this purpose.

The available information indicated that Mahmud Husayn Ahmad, the leading Muslim Brotherhood official in Asyut, gave 25,000 pounds to the group's officials in the governorate for distribution among terrorists' families. The list included:

The distribution of sums ranged between 1,000 and 3,000 pounds to fugitive elements and between 500 and 1,000 pounds to the families of defendants, those sentenced in terrorist cases, and those who died in clashes with the security forces. Kamal Salah Muhammad, official in charge of the so-called Islamic Group in al-Qusiyah, was given 5,000 Pounds. The family of dead terrorist leader 'Arfah Darwish, the amir of Sinbu village, was given 1,000 pounds. The deputy Muslim Brotherhood leader in Asyut obtained 12,000 pounds for his aides.

In al-Minya, the information confirmed that huge amounts of money were received from the guidance bureau of leader 'Ali Ahmad 'Imran for distribution to the terrorists and their families. A sum of 12,500 pounds of this money was seized following the distribution of part of it. Security organs monitored five terrorist crimes perpetrated only 48 hours after the arrest of MB elements in charge of taking the money to the fugitives in the mountains and fields.

In Alexandria, the dissolved organization's guidance bureau ordered the issuance of pamphlets and wall posters attacking the government and alleging that it is fighting the Islamic trend. Orders were also given to issue statements and leaflets inside and outside the country denouncing the republican decree referring the Muslim Brotherhood leaders to military courts and hinting of a possible alliance with the terrorist elements and of resorting to arms to achieve their objectives. Defendant Jamal Sa'd Madi, who is currently being tried before a military court, undertook the task of issuing and printing the pamphlets at his own printing press and of stockpiling a large quantity of them in a clinic belonging to a charitable society in Abu Qir.

The investigations revealed that the Muslim Brotherhood authorized Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh, secretary general of the Doctors Association, to travel to several countries, including Jordan, Yemen, Pakistan, Sudan, and Britain, to contact the terrorist groups' leaders and elements and open channels of communications with them on the pretext of working to set up an Islamic caliphate. The real purpose of his visit was to plan for military training on the arts of warfare and the use of weapons in several foreign countries, specially where conflicts are raging.

The documents revealed his role in exploiting his position in the association to facilitate the travel of elements nominated by the Muslim Brotherhood to Pakistan on the pretext of working with the Afghan mujahidin relief committees. They were in fact sent to attend military courses and train on the use of weapons in preparation for carrying out tasks entrusted to them following their return to the country. The documents also revealed that he traveled to Germany, London, Turkey, and Kuwait to contact foreign circles to ensure financial backing for use during the coming stage and to coordinate with elements abroad for an information campaign of support and backing for the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. The documents confirmed that he recently toured Upper Egypt, where he held several meetings to incite the people and coordinate with the terrorist elements the timing for their operations—as set by the Muslim Brotherhood leadership.

Documents available to the Higher State Security Prosecution indicate that members of the banned group exploited Islamic medical societies to hold secret meetings away from the eyes of the security services. According to the documents, suspect Sa'd Zaghlul al-'Ashmawi, director of and physician at the Islamic Medical Society's dispensary in al-Haram, used the society's offices, which were built with funding from the organization's leadership, to hold meetings and spread the group's ideas and principles among the patients that frequented the society for treatment. He was trying to convince them of the group's objectives and how they can be realized, and to attract them to the ranks of the group. Dr. Muhyi-al-Din al-Zayit committed the same violations, taking advantage of his work in the society to disseminate the principles of the Muslim Brotherhood.

As regards Engineer Mahmud al-Sayyid Basyuni, the documents say he supervised the holding of organizational elections in al-Qalyubiyah and was the official in charge of organization at Markaz Tukh. He held organizational meetings with his cadres in his house and used his membership in the council of the Engineers Association branch to hold some of these meetings, away from security surveillance.

He also communicated assignments issued to him by the leadership to his cadres, and he supervised stamina exercises and other stern sports and training courses in several parks and open areas.

Dr. al-Sayyid Mahmud 'Izzat used his work as a professor at the medical college to explain the organization's plan, method of action, and ways to penetrate the masses, especially students, to get them to support the organization's leadership in its efforts to seize power under the pretext of establishing an Islamic state. Suspect al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Miliji took advantage of his leading position in the Educational Professions Association and used its financial resources and offices to serve and finance the activities of the group. The offices of the Association were used to hold organizational meetings and as a legitimate cover for their moves. He was also sent on organizational missions to foreign countries and to some governorates under cover of [Islamic] solidarity.

It was also found that suspect Lashin 'Abdallah Abu-Shanab, board chairman of the al-Jil al-Muslim schools, held several meetings with Brotherhood leaders abroad, especially in Germany, Yemen, and Turkey. He travelled to those countries on organizational missions assigned to him. During those meetings, [the conferees] mentioned the need for a military action against the government saying the matter was being carefully prepared by the leaders of the organization. The conferees were asked to study memoranda saying that jihad is a duty and to try to attract Armed Forces elements to the group to use their training and military expertise.

Abu-Shanab exploited his position as director of the schools founded with Brotherhood money to disseminate the Muslim Brothers' ideology. He recruited teachers from the Brotherhood's ranks to instill hatred of the government in the students' minds and raise a generation of young people who have total loyalty to the Brotherhood's leadership.

Dr. Husayn Shihatah, professor at al-Azhar Business School, exploited his post to spread the brotherhood's ideology and principles among the students. He also used his position in the Merchants Association to carry out instructions given to him by the organization to disseminate the Brotherhood's ideology, try to control the association, and exploit it to serve the Brotherhood's interests.

Dr. Mahmud Husayn Ahmad Hasan, professor at Asyut University's School of Architecture, undertook the task of preparing for the elections. He used his teaching post and his membership in Asyut University's faculty to disseminate the Brotherhood's ideology. He received a sum of approximately 12,000 pounds from the Guidance Bureau to distribute to terrorist groups. He traveled to Sudan on 6 March 1995 on the instruction of the Brotherhood's leadership to make contact with the Sudanese Muslim Brothers and Hasan al-Turabi's NIF. He was also sent on organizational missions to Yemen.

The suspect Muhammad Khayri made a list of fugitive terrorists in al-Minya Governorate prior to distributing the money sent to them by the Brotherhood.

The suspect Muhammad Sa'd 'Ulaywah sought to control the activities of the General Doctors Association in al-Jizah to exploit the association for the Brotherhood's interests and use it as a legal cover for Brotherhood activities in unionist ranks and as a cover for Brotherhood meetings.

The suspect 'Ali Mutawalli Salim—an Education Ministry inspector—was given the task of recruiting new members for the Brotherhood in al-Sharqiyah and Ismailia Governorates after persuading them to espouse its ideology and believe that the country's government was not implementing Islamic teachings but carrying out the instructions of foreign powers hostile to Islam.

The suspect Muhammad Gharib 'Abd-al-'Aziz, a lawyer, was instructed to sue the Interior and Defense Ministries for financial compensation on behalf of Muslim Brothers who had been formerly detained. Part of this compensation was to be used to finance Brotherhood activities and pay the defense expenses in trials of terrorists who had perpetrated criminal offenses. This was to be done in the context of the ongoing coordination between the Brotherhood's leadership and the leaders of the terrorists groups.

The investigations, supervised by Attorney General Hisham Saraya and Chief District Attorney Yasir Rifa'i, showed that State Security detectives had seized numerous important organizational documents that showed Brotherhood plans, structures, methods, and the general plan that the organization intended to carry out during the elections. Some of the documents included the program of the Egyptian Reform Party, its statute, and goals. This latter party's goals included plans to facilitate the organizational activities of the banned Muslim Brotherhood. Among the documents were letters exchanged between the Brotherhood and Muslim Brother leaders in Sudan, handwritten reports assessing the situation in one Lower Egypt province, ways of infiltrating various institutions, and recruitment rates.

MB Statement on Arrest Issued

*NC1310194595 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
10 Oct 95 pp 1, 8*

[Report by Qutb al-'Arabi and Mu'tazz al-Hadidi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The government's indiscriminate blows to the elections process escalated yesterday before they even started when it continued to arrest Islamist candidates. The country is now facing a situation unprecedented in its history, as the ruling party is seeking to win by arresting the opposition candidates. At the time this paper went to press the arrests involved 14 persons from seven governorates, comprised of a new batch of labor action leaders, university teachers, and public action leaders in those governorates. Some of them have already declared their intention to run in the coming People's Assembly elections as candidates. For example, the arrest of Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh, assistant secretary general of Arab Doctors Federation, came hours after he submitted a request for a document testifying that he has no criminal record, which parliamentary candidates must have. Muhammad Gharib, who was arrested yesterday, was the lawyer of Counselor Muhammad al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, a candidate for the People's Assembly election for al-Duqqi electoral district in al-Jizah. Candidate Dr. Mahmud Husayn from Asyut was also arrested.

Those arrested so far are:

Dr. Hasan Shihatah, accounting teacher at the College of Commerce, al-Azhar University, and chairman of the accounts department of the Public Traders Association.

Dr. Mahmud 'Izzat, medical analysis teacher at the College of Medicine, al-Zaqaziq University.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh, assistant secretary general of the Arab Doctors Federation, former secretary general of the Egyptian Doctors Association, secretary general of the Union of Medical Organizations in the Islamic Countries, and a candidate in the People's Assembly elections in al-Manyal electoral district.

Dr. al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Miliji, secretary general of the Scientists Association and teacher at the Sciences College, Suez Canal University.

'Ali 'Ali Mutawalli, a teacher with the Education Ministry and a well-known Islamic preacher in the city of Abu Hammad in al- Sharqiyah Governorate.

Hajj Hilmi Hammud, a merchant from Port Said, 75 years old.

Lashin Abu-Shanab, former director general of education in Tanta, director of the al-Jil al-Muslim schools in Tanta, a well-known Islamic preacher, a prominent member of the 1987 People's Assembly, and a candidate in the next elections in al-Gharbiyah.

Dr. Anwar Hasan Shihatah, treasurer of the Medical Professions Association, treasurer of the Doctors Association, secretary of the Humanitarian Relief Committee.

Dr. Muhyi-al-Din al-Zayit, a dermatologist at 'Ayn Shams University.

Dr. Mahmud Husayn, treasurer of the Engineers Association, former chairman of the Arab Engineers Federation, teacher at the College of Engineering at Asyut University, and a candidate in the People's Assembly elections for Asyut.

Muhammad Gharib, lawyer acting for Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi who is the candidate for al-Duqqi electoral district in al-Jizah, and a member of the defense committee of the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members who have been referred to a military court.

Dr. Sa'd Zaghlul 'Ashmawi, a surgeon and secretary general of the Cairo Doctors Association.

Dr. Muhammad Sa'd, treasurer of the al-Jizah Doctors Association, and a specialist in urinary diseases.

Engineer Mahmud Basyuni, secretary general of the Engineers Association in al-Qalyubiyah. His father died yesterday but he was not allowed to attend the funeral.

The Muslim Brotherhood group has issued a statement in which it stresses that this act confirms the government's resolute efforts to trick the people and frustrate the nation's wishes, to distort parliamentary life, and to instill terror and fear in the masses. The statement adds that the government is not content with the measures being applied within the context of the emergency law and other ill-reputed laws that violate human rights and dignity and the constitution's spirit and provisions.

The Muslim Brotherhood group added that the government is using iron restrictions to prevent the Muslim Brotherhood members from talking to or meeting with the masses or from attending popular gatherings and visiting housing units. The government, according to the statement, is also preventing nongovernment candidates from launching any campaigns to explain their programs, principles, and the facts. These are basic and indispensable electoral matters, the statement adds.

Continuing, the Muslim Brotherhood said that the government is exploiting the nine television stations to spread corruption and broadcast inaccurate and false claims. This is in addition to the radio stations and the government-owned publications. Furthermore, the government is resorting to twisted methods to drive a wedge between the honorable citizens who have high social standing and are acceptable to the voters, to prevent them from using their natural, constitutional, and legal rights to seek nomination. The government has been leveling charges against these honorable citizens for the past nine months. But it has failed to present any list to substantiate its allegations, the statement says.

The Muslim Brotherhood noted that this government policy does not augur well and disregards the interests of the homeland and citizens as well as the confidence that the people must have in government measures.

It is worth mentioning that the police have arrested a number of the [Muslim Brotherhood] leaders in Alexandria, including Jamal Madi, owner of a publishing house; Tal'at Fahmi, a school headmaster; Muhammad Shahatah, director of the Engineers Club; 'Abd-al-'Aziz Zuwayl, director of the Alexandria Doctors Union; Mustafa Hilmi, an inspector at the Ministry of Education; and Fahmi 'Amir, an employee at the Engineers Club. [passage omitted]

Trial, British Lawyers Viewed

NC1410152495 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by Jalal Duwaydar: "Who Will Foot the Bill?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is the right of every defendant to be given every opportunity to defend himself in order to refute any charges made against him.

It is the right of every person to object to any charge leveled against him proceeding from the principle that the defendant is innocent until proven guilty.

At the same time, it is the right of the government's institutions, which are responsible for managing the country's affairs in accordance with legislative principles and rules, to take those measures that guarantee security and stability, as well as everyone's adherence to laws that realize the interests of the people.

The deciding factor in the relationship between the defendant and the accusing side is the sovereignty of the law and the soundness of the measures that agree with this basic principle. The situation will not be any different whether the trial takes place before the regular courts or the military courts, so long as this measure does not violate the constitution or contradict the right of the defendant to prove his innocence. This is a basic right, as I mentioned previously.

With regard to trying a group of Muslim Brotherhood [MB] leaders before the military courts on charges of conspiracy and reorganization of the activities of the legally dissolved MB, the law stipulates the right of the president of the republic to refer crimes stipulated in the penal code or any other code to the military courts if he believes that would realize justice quickly and give the law sovereignty. On the other hand, there is no reason for raising any doubts about this justice system; the moral lies in its regulations which are issued within the framework of the law instead of stalling and time-wasting. A piece of evidence proving the soundness of these regulations is the acquittal by military courts of many of the defendants who had been submitted for trial.

What is of great interest in this case is that four British lawyers have been entrusted with the defense. Among these lawyers are two who are reportedly of Iranian and Pakistani extract. The four lawyers are Jondplats Mills, M.A. Azhar, Shah Muhyi-al-Din, and Frank Silvrin [all names as published].

Some people are wondering who will be footing the bills for these lawyers, which will amount to millions of pounds? There is evidence proving that the international MB organization, which is accused of financing extremist operations, is the one that hired these lawyers to eliminate suspicions regarding the direct involvement of the dissolved MB in Egypt. There are also indications that Shiite Iran will contribute toward paying these bills to support its strategy of creating problems in the Middle East under a fake Islamic guise. Primarily, the objective is to perpetuate the mullahs rule in Iran. Also factored into this is the teeming desire to strike at stability in Egypt in order to open the way before imposing their control and hegemony over the region.

Entrusting the British lawyers with the task of defending these MB members comes at a time when they are being defended by ranking Egyptian lawyers, whether voluntarily or in return for an acknowledged fee. Therefore, it is obvious the objective behind hiring the British lawyers is not only to defend but to go beyond into defaming Egypt's stance on extremism and terrorism.

Britain, which the international MB organization uses as a base for its activities, affirmed during a meeting between the four lawyers and officials at the British Embassy in Cairo that it refuses to get involved in such activities. It is a well-known fact that a large number of MB leaders and millionaires from among the ranks of this international organization live in London and have assumed the task of directly financing and gathering contributions to fund the activities of their branches in a number of countries.

No side other than the judiciary can condemn the defendants, who are from among the MB membership and whose right it is to aspire to be pronounced innocent of the charges of conspiracy and the reorganization of a dissolved grouping. However, it is not at all acceptable or allowed to defame Egypt or conspire against its stability and security, be that by a state or by international organizations.

Muslim Brotherhood Competes for Parliament Seats

NC1310205095 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 13 Oct 95 p 15

[Unattributed report: "In Lower Egypt Constituencies: The Muslim Brothers Versus the Labor Party"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The crisis between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Labor Party entered its most serious stage this week after the Muslim Brothers dissociated themselves from all earlier agreements to divide the nominations in half between the two groups. After the Brotherhood openly fielded candidates against Labor candidates, Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri was forced to intervene and asked Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, in his capacity as the Muslim Brothers' representative, to stop these excesses immediately or the Labor Party will end its alliance with the Brotherhood regardless of the consequences.

Shukri was furious when the Muslim Brothers prevented Salah al-Qafas, president of the Tanta branch of the Lawyers Association and a close associate of Shukri, from putting up his election posters. The Brothers claimed that they had already nominated Lashin Abu-Shanab for the Tanta constituency. According to an earlier agreement between the two sides, al-Qafas was to remain Tanta's candidate while Abu-Shanab was to be transferred to a rural constituency in al-Gharbiyah Governorate. The same thing happened to Dr. Amin al-Dakruri, secretary of the Labor Party's al-Daqahliyah branch. The Muslim brothers nominated one of their own number to compete with him for the Talkha constituency seat, even though they knew that al-Dakruri is a close aide of Shukri. This constituted blatant defiance of Shukri's status within the alliance.

AL-MUSAWWAR has learned that the Muslim Brothers did this after the Labor Party proclaimed an election platform of its own, which the Brothers considered a public abrogation of the alliance.

Last week the Muslim Brothers tried to explore the Labor Party's attitude towards them. They sent 300 Muslim Brothers to fill in application forms to join the Labor Party and act as volunteer campaign workers, using Labor Party cards as a protection against arrest. 'Abdallah Abu-al-Hasan, Labor's assistant secretary general, rejected their applications and threatened to resign if Ibrahim Shukri accepted them.

It is surprising that the Muslim Brothers are paying no heed to Ibrahim Shukri. They sent the Labor Party's General Secretariat a list of 55 Brotherhood candidates who will run in all the Labor Party's constituencies. These include 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh, assistant secretary general of the Arab Bar Association. He will run against Muhammad Farid Hasanayn, a major financial backer of the Labor Party. Dr. Ahmad 'Umar will run against Mustafa Bakri, the Liberal Party candidate for the professionals' seat in al-Tibbin constituency, a seat that the Labor-Brotherhood Alliance had originally conceded to Bakri. The Muslim Brothers threatened to nominate Lashin Abu-Shanab in al-Mahallah constituency against Naji al-Shahabi, branch secretary of the Labor Party. They removed 'Imad Mahjub from the Hada'iq al-Qubbah constituency and nominated Mahdi 'Akif in his place. This substantiates an assertion that AL-MUSAWWAR made several weeks ago, namely, that the Labor-Brotherhood Alliance will certainly be dissolved.

Indian Prime Minister Continues Visit

Holds Interview

*NC1510071295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0605 GMT 15 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has affirmed that the objective of his visit to Egypt today, Sunday [15 October], is to exchange views with President Husni Mubarak on ways to bolster bilateral relations between Egypt and India in various fields and to discuss issues of mutual interest between the two countries.

Rao said in an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM published today that his discussions with President Husni Mubarak will include a review of all the possible ways to benefit from the economic reform process and the restructuring of the economies of Egypt and India. He pointed out the importance of exerting further efforts to increase economic cooperation between Egypt and India.

He also confirmed the need for cooperation between Egypt and India in the field of combating terrorism. He pointed out that India is facing the woes of terrorism because it is confronted more or less by a war of proxy against it.

The Indian prime minister said in an interview with the AL-AHRAM newspaper that Egypt is considered the biggest trade partner with his country on the African continent. Trade exchange between the two countries in 1994 reached $195 million. He noted that India encourages the exchange of visits by trade delegations with Egypt and participation in joint exhibitions.

On the future of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] in light of the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the end of the cold war, Narasimha Rao said that the NAM is still necessary and important because it contributes toward establishing peace and realizing development and disarmament. In addition, the movement expresses the interests of the developing countries.

He added that the NAM represents more than two-thirds of humanity. This is why it has a pivotal role in entrenching the international community's priorities and in diffusing an atmosphere that allows countries to work within its framework in order to realize joint progress for humanity.

On the possibility of holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir within the framework of the Indian elections, Rao expressed his belief that it is possibile to do so as a result of the Indian Government's concerted efforts and the response of the people there. He pointed out that it was dangerous to hold elections in Kashmir so long as the violence there escalated.

Meets With Mubarak

*BK1610061895 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 16 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Egypt have agreed to revitalize bilateral relations and expand cooperation in various fields. During their one-to-one meeting in Cairo yesterday, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the Egyptian president, Mr. Husni Mubarak, decided that the Indo-Egyptian Joint Commission should meet at an early date. Emphasizing the need to strengthen economic relations, the two leaders felt that the joint commission should identify areas of cooperation and make suggestions. They also favored an increased interaction between the private sectors of the two countries.

Mr. Rao and Mr. Mubarak during their talks discussed several issues, including the West Asia peace process, the menace of international terrorism, and the forthcoming NAM [Nonaligned Movement] and UN meetings.

Our correspondent Venudhar Reddy reports that their decision to convene the meeting of the joint commission is likely to boost bilateral trade, which is now at 1,000 crore rupees. The prime minister is to have delegation-level talks with his Egyptian counterpart, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, today. This will be followed by signing of three agreements, including one on terrorism.

Our correspondent Shaymol Bhattacharjee understands that the agreement envisages the exchange of information on terrorist activities, transnational crimes, and drug trafficking. The agreement on information seeks to facilitate media exchange and coverage between the two countries. The third one, on science and technology, will update an earlier agreement to include new areas.

Mr. Rao will leave Cairo for Cartagena this afternoon to attend the NAM summit.

Meets Prime Minister Sidqi

NC1610145995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1230 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—A round of Egyptian-Indian talks was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao this morning.

The two prime ministers held a brief closed meeting at Dr. Sidqi's office before joining members of the two delegations at the Prime Ministry's conference hall. [passage omitted]

The talks centered on ways to promote bilateral cooperation in all areas, especially in the fields of science, media, and the fight against terrorism.

Dr. Sidqi said after the talks that the two sides discussed all issues of concern to the two countries, including the future of the Nonaligned Movement, the Middle East peace process, and ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in various fields.

He said the two sides also discussed exchange of expertise in the area of economic reform. He noted that India is now implementing an economic reform program similar to Egypt's. He said ways to benefit from India's advanced expertise in industry, science, and technology were also discussed.

The prime minister said the two sides agreed to hold the next meeting of the joint Egyptian-Indian committee at the level of international cooperation ministers early next year. An exchange of experts in private sector activity and investments, especially industrial investment, was also agreed upon.

Dr. Sidqi concluded his statement by saying that three agreements were signed at the end of the talks today. He explained that the first agreement deals with scientific and technological research, the second with the fight against terrorism and security cooperation, and the third with cooperation between Egyptian and Indian media.

For his part, the Indian prime minister said his brief visit to Cairo was successful by all standards. This gives a good impetus to bilateral relations in all areas, he said.

He said that during his meeting with President Husni Mubarak yesterday, he heard Egypt's views on various regional and international issues, and that they are largely identical to India's.

He said he invited President Mubarak to visit India, and a date for the visit will be set later.

On the Nonaligned Movement's conference in Colombia, Rao said that the conferees will raise all problems faced by the nonaligned states and the role of the Nonaligned Movement vis-a-vis current international changes.

[In a Cairo-datelined report at 1240 GMT on 16 October, MENA says that the Indian prime minister left Cairo in the afternoon]

Pakistani Justice, Tourism Ministers Arrive

NC1410081695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0622 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—Pakistani Justice Minister Dr. Tabi Rad Khan arrived in Cairo this morning for a visit to Egypt of several days. During his stay, he will hold talks with Justice Minister Counselor Faruq Sayf al-Nasr on ways to boost judicial and legal cooperation between the two countries in light of the protocol currently in force between them.

The Pakistani minister will also meet with al-Azhar's Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, and Mufti of the Republic Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi to discuss boosting judicial and religious cooperation between the two countries.

Pakistani Minister of Tourism Hasan Reza Pasha also arrived in Cairo this morning heading a delegation that is visiting Egypt for several days.

The Pakistani minister will participate in the world tourism conference due to open in Cairo on Tuesday. More than 90 countries will participate in the conference.

Mubarak Receives U.S. Secretary of Navy

NC1610075195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0720 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received U.S. Secretary of the Navy John Dalton at the presidential office this morning. The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; Lieutenant General Ahmad 'Ali Fadil, commander of the Naval Forces; and Edmund Hull, U.S. charge d'affaires.

Dalton Concludes Visit

NC1710090395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of the Navy John Dalton left Cairo this morning after a two-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. During his stay in Egypt the U.S. official also held military talks with Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

U.S. Official Cited on Ties, Country's Role

NC1410132395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, has emphasized that Egypt plays an important role in the Middle East in general as the region's largest and most populous country. He added that Egypt is a pivotal state in this region and that it plays a great role in enhancing stability in the entire region.

In statements to AL-AHRAM today, Pelletreau noted the importance of the strong relationship between Egypt and the United States and the importance of close consultations between them on all problems affecting the Middle East, security in the Gulf, and confrontation of world terrorism.

He said the United States is interested in seeing Egypt strong economically and able to achieve development and provide jobs for its new generations.

He noted in this regard that a senior official in an Arab country told him recently that the United States should continue its support for Egypt because Egypt for the Arabs is "the High Dam." Pelletreau remarked that this statement confirms the United States' belief in the importance of strong relationship with Egypt.

Commenting on Egypt's role in the peace process, Pelletreau said Egypt has been involved in the peace process. He added: I do not believe that the Palestinians and Israelis would have been able to reach the agreement on the self-rule's second phase, which was signed in Washington recently, at least not so quickly, had it not been for the support and backing of Egypt.

He noted that during the Taba talks, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat made shuttle trips to Cairo while the Egyptian Government was in touch with the Israeli Government. He said this role was demonstrated by the Egyptian leadership in the negotiations. Therefore, he added, it was natural during preparations for the signing ceremony in Washington for U.S. President Bill Clinton to contact President Husni Mubarak to congratulate him on what has been achieved and to invite him to participate in the ceremony.

The U.S. official said: We were pleased with President Mubarak's participation. It showed Egypt's support for the peace process to the world.

U.S. 'Interference' in Elections Condemned

NC1510110695 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 11 Oct 95 pp 1,4

[Editorial by Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id: "For Egypt and its People and Not for the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I was surprised, or rather, horrified to see an Egyptian opposition paper rattling the U.S. saber at the start of the election campaign. This newspaper said that the U.S. Administration is interested in the elections of the People's Assembly in Egypt. In a banner headline it said: "The United States declares its support for free elections and for sovereignty of law." The newspaper's correspondent in Washington also said: "Officials in the Office of Middle East Affairs at the U.S. State Department revealed U.S. interest in the upcoming People's Assembly elections and in watching them in light of the effective participation of all political parties."

We in the National Progressive Unionist Grouping are concerned to explain our stance on this issue in line with the following principles:

1. We believe in the need to hold free elections on the basis of total clarity, equality, and non-intervention by the administrative departments.

2. We believe that the only ones allowed to supervise the elections are the Egyptian people, Egyptian public opinion, and their civil establishments.

3. We believe that the United States is trying to poke its nose into the domestic affairs of numerous countries around the world on the pretext of defending democracy. This is unacceptable because America is not the policeman nor the proponent of democracy in the world, particularly because it closes its eyes and deals happily with regimes that violate people's most basic of rights and the simplest principles of democracy. Thus, the U.S. interference on the pretext of observing the soundness of the elections is rejected because it in fact aims to further impose U.S. influence in our homeland's domestic situation.

4. We believe that the support and financial backing of an Arab country for the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood is not far from the United States' hand. Thus, the observance has lost the prerequisite of neutrality. It

even contributes to supporting forces that it knows are completely hostile to democracy.

5. We appeal to all political parties and forces and the society's civil establishments to refrain from taking foreign factors to heart because this would infringe upon national independence and dignity. Moreover, it would encourage many parties and individuals to rely on foreign support without real domestic struggle to guarantee free elections.

Finley, the free elections are the Egyptian people's hope for and weapon to build a better future. Egypt's future has been and will remain a trust in the hands of the Egyptians alone, without the interference or custodianship of foreigners, especially if the foreigner is the United States. It supports forces hostile to democracy in Egypt and backs forces opposed to democracy abroad. The United States is only interested in its own interests.

Document on U.S. 'Goals' for Region Revealed

NC1410143395 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
10 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[FBIS Translated Text] A serious document prepared by the U.S. State Department has revealed the main goals behind the U.S. efforts to expedite a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The document notes that Washington's goals seek to redraw the political map of the region to guarantee the maintenance of U.S. interests by securing the oil flow, eliminating the fundamentalist religious leaderships, increasing U.S. investment opportunities in the Middle East, and marketing U.S. products and goods.

The U.S. State Department document confirms that recharting the political map of the region includes:

1. Maintaining Israel's military and economic superiority because Israel is considered the most important ally in the region.

2. Seeking to make Egypt, Israel, and Jordan the main axis of military operations in the region in the next stage, particularly against Iran, whose threat is expected to increase.

3. Forming a security league among the Gulf countries and to boost ties between this league and the main axis countries.

4. Emphasizing Iraq's isolation and containment until Saddam Husayn is completely destroyed.

5. Stressing the need to reach a new settlement between Syria and Israel through increased U.S. efforts if Syria agrees to join the main axis countries.

By seeking these goals, Washington aims to eliminate the European role in the region and ensure its economic and military control of the situation in this part of the world. The document considers Libya, Sudan, Iran, and Iraq to be hostile countries to the U.S. political designs.

Envoy Views Nuclear Issue Discussion With Israel

NC1610222395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2142 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador in London Muhammad Shakir has said: Israel will not join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. It does not have any intention of doing so. We are left with the option of persuading it to discuss the nuclear issue in a regional context. This is taking place now through the multilateral committee on disarmament that operates in the context of the Madrid conference.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM published in Tuesday's [17 October] issue, the Egyptian ambassador added: The basic task is to persuade Israel to talk publicly with us about the nuclear issue, especially as it has so far refused to include it in any discussion.

He said he believes that it is not necessary to begin the discussion from the point of a comprehensive treaty to establish a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East or a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

He added: We must, however, try to persuade it to discuss the issue in principle. We must pose questions, the answers to which will form practical ideas for the region's future, in this regard.

Ambassador Shakir said that it is not enough for Israel to open its nuclear reactors to inspection, but that it must also disclose the nuclear materials that it has accumulated over the years. He noted that experts who have been monitoring the activity and potential of the Dimona reactor say that Israel now has sufficient nuclear material to build a hundred bombs or more.

The Egyptian ambassador confirmed that if Israel joins the NPT, it must allow international or national [as received] inspection teams to take stock of Israel's store of nuclear materials, ensure that it is kept in a safe place, or hand it over to a party that will ensure it is kept secure.

Air Force Commander Discusses Advancements

NC1310121195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0835 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)— Air Force commander Lieutenant General Ahmad Nasr stated that the "F-16" fighter planes included in the fourth deal [with the United States] have all arrived in Egypt and that the Air Force is currently negotiating a fifth deal, since this type of planes represents the backbone of our air Force.

Lt. Gen. Nasr said in an exclusive interview with MENA that the Egyptian Air Force is always careful to obtain the most sophisticated planes and modern equipment that positively affect the combat efficiency of our Air Force.

He noted that Egypt has obtained Apache helicopters, the most modern attack planes in the world, which are more efficient than any other antitank weapon in dealing with armored vehicles at a distance. He added that the Air Force was therefore careful to conclude a second deal for these planes, which will arrive at the end of 1996. The first group of Apaches arrived in Egypt last year.

The Air Force commander said in the interview that Egypt also obtained anti-submarine helicopters and advanced "L-59" training aircraft, which will enhance the offensive capability and efficiency of the Air Force.

He added that the "MiG-21" will remain in operation in the Air Force and that they are constantly undergoing development. This is a prevalent trend in all countries that have that type of plane, he said.

He pointed out that Egypt further developed eastern "Mi-8" helicopters and equipped them with the most modern navigation systems. He noted that this aircraft will continue to operate in the Egyptian Air Force as a training aircraft as well as in the operations theater.

Lt. Gen. Nasr refuted reports that the Air Force is planning to sell the Phantoms it owns, pointing out that the Air Force is using these aircraft very efficiently. He said that the Air force has highly-trained engineers and technical teams who were trained locally and abroad and gained experience in maintaining, repairing, overhauling, and developing aircraft. This qualifies them to apply modern engineering, material, repair, testing, and computer technologies and enables them to extend the lifespan of aircraft engines, and parts through cooperation with producing countries. They were also able to add sophisticated weapons to old aircraft using weapons imported from other countries, Nasr said.

He noted that the Egyptian experts developed a special filter for the Apaches to help them adjust to the desert environment. He pointed out that Egypt receives returns whenever the United States sells an Apache with the Egyptian modification.

Asked about alleged technical faults in the Turkish-made "F-16's" which Egypt obtained, Lt. Gen. Ahmad Nasr said: We make deals with the United States itself to buy this type of aircraft under its supervision. The United States delivers the aircraft. It makes no difference to us where the United States manufactured these aircraft. What concerns us is receiving these aircraft in mint condition and according to the specifications we ordered through our experts.

Nasr added that the Air Force always tries to conclude deals in the most sophisticated technological equipment and devices used in the air force corps to maintain the combat efficiency of our troops and to catch up with the enormous developments in that field. Therefore, he added, the Air Force developed navigation, synchronization, and night-flight devices in our aircraft. We also developed communication and steering devices that make use of satellites, he said.

He said also that flight-charting devices were computerized, that the use of simulators was expanded, and that we obtained the most sophisticated thermal air-to-air missiles to use in fighter aircraft.

Lt. Gen. Ahmad Nasr said that the Armed Forces General Command has decided to hold the Air Force's major maneuver this year in the context of the Bright Star maneuvers that will be held from 11-17 November by the United States, France, Britain, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates. He added that our Air Force will carry out all the missions assigned to it day and night.

Nasr explained that 610 aircraft, including 400 Egyptian warplanes, will take part in the maneuvers to conduct some 3,000 sorties. Of these, the Egyptian aircraft will conduct 1,500 sorties. He added that the antitank Apaches will be used in this common exercise for the first time. In addition, he said, the night vision, navigation, and aiming devices of the F-16's will also be used for the first time on maritime targets at night.

The Air Force commander remarked that joint exercises are one of the most important parts of training and that they come after training in individual and group skills. He said that the Air Force is always careful to maintain that type of training because of its positive impact on the combat efficiency of the forces.

Asked how a military balance can be achieved in the Middle East when certain states are acquiring very advanced aircraft, he replied: It is not necessary for all regional states to acquire the same type of weaponry to achieve a balance. Each state is free to choose the type of weaponry it believes will help achieve its offensive or defensive strategy, he said.

He confirmed that the Air Force examines its needs of aircraft in light of a policy governing the Armed Forces in general, a policy consistent with the general goals of the state at different stages.

AL-AKHBAR Mocks Iraqi Referendum

NC1710082495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR ridicules the outcome of the referendum in Baghdad on extending Saddam Husayn's term in office. It says the referendum calls for mockery.

The paper adds that Saddam chose to spend billions of dollars deposited in his name in world banks to build scores of palaces on the desert sands to secure his life instead of importing necessary food for millions of children. Yet he claims he has won all the votes needed to remain in his seat for another seven hard years. God only knows how many disasters will occur in these years, the paper says.

Al-Qadhdhafi's Treatment of Palestinians Viewed

NC1310212795 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 13 Oct 95 p 194

[Article by Mahmud al-Sa'dani: "Al-Qadhdhafi, the Arab League, and Surrealism"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Contemporary Arabs have the right to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature on the grounds that they are masters of surrealism. Just watch His Excellency Colonel al-Qadhdahfi proving that the writings of all the authors of the absurd are just indulging in kids' play. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi says that the Arab leaders are traitors because they have not expelled the Palestinians from their countries and forcibly driven them toward the occupied territories. I ask Col. al-Qadhdhafi: Let us assume that the Arab leaders expelled the Palestinians from their countries and drove them by force toward the occupied territories. How can the Palestinians then enter their country? How can they cross the borders to Gaza, Hebron, Janin, and Jericho? Will we leave them in the Sinai desert to eat lizards and locusts? Will we push them into a losing battle in which thousands of Palestinians will die? Al-Qadhdhafi's proposal would be reasonable if his excellency promised to send his legions to open the borders by force and enable the Palestinians to enter their territories. If he did this, he would have the right to arrest 'Arafat and hang him from a tree on the grounds that he had committed acts involving the betrayal of the Palestinian people and selling them out to the agents.

Al-Qadhdhafi, however, demonstrates the proverb: When I hear your speeches, I believe you, but when I see your actions I am amazed.

He loves the Palestinians so much that he has inflicted on them what the Jews did after 1948: refugee camps, destitution, food handouts, and a new generation brought up in the diaspora.

God in His wisdom made two kinds of people: one kind that fights colonialism with fire and steel, offering victims and martyrs, and another kind that fights colonialism by microphone, defeats it on the pages of newspapers, and teaches it a lesson via pompous speeches and bombastic announcements. Brother Col. al-Qadhdhafi certainly belongs to the second kind.

It is surprising that in his latest speech, he used invective against all Arab leaders, accusing them of being agents of imperialism and colonialism. He accused everyone without exception, even those who had fought the enemy and confronted the Jews on the battlefield. Assuming that al-Qadhdhafi has the right to attack these people because they did not go on fighting until they liberated Jerusalem, does he have the right to attack those who rejected the embargo on Libya, took his side, and defied UN resolutions?

I say that we should not blame Col. al-Qadhdhafi. We should instead blame those who deal with the brother colonel in good faith despite his disappointing actions and surrealistic positions. Why should we hide from the public the details of what occurred on the Egyptian-Libyan border in the past few days? Why did we not show in sound and image the Palestinians' destitute condition and torment on Egypt's borders? Why do we keep silent about the brother colonel's actions when he abuses us and makes false accusations against us and then moves his border several hundred meters backwards inside no man's land to make the Palestinian refugee camp lie outside Libyan territory?

Furthermore, how can we keep quiet about the mass arrest of Egyptians, striped of their money and possessions, and incarcerated in dirty cells as a prelude to their deportation to Cairo?

Is this permissible by any religion or law?

Is this what Arab brotherhood really means? Is this the invincible Arab unity? [passage omitted]

Libya

Application for Security Council Seat Withdrawn

LD1710084495 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Communique issued by the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah applied for one of the seats in the UN Security Council allocated to North Africa. This application was based on Libya's right to a seat in the Security Council as a member of the organization. It is a right associated with membership of the United Nations whose Charter guarantees the rotation rule which has been the basis governing the international process of occupying the Security Council's nonpermanent seats.

The application won the support of all the states of the African continent, to which the Great Jamahiriyah belongs. The continent did not stop at giving support. It called for international support for the Great Jamahiriyah's legitimate application for a Security Council seat. Africa expressed strong objection to any motion aiming at depriving Libya of a seat on the pretext of the Lockerbie crisis. The Arab League states strongly supported the application.

Despite this, since the Great Jamahiriyah's announcement of its wish to occupy a seat, the United States, Britain, and France mounted a feverish campaign threatening each and every state which supported the application, and applying economic and other pressure.

Because of the Great Jamahiriyah's wish to prevent any attempt to bring about a split between the African group and the Arab states, Libya has decided to postpone its application for a seat to another more favorable opportunity.

While making way for a sister state to occupy this seat at this session, Libya would like to express its thanks and appreciation to all the states of the African group for the brave stand they adopted in support of Libya's application. Libya also thanks all the African, Arab, and other states which expressed good feelings toward this application.

Editorial Assails U.S., Sanctions Law

LD1510174395 Tripoli JANA in English 1638 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Tumur [October] 15, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY — The French foreign minister said in a press interview published in London that his country did not wish the embargo to be lifted on Libya unless the latter 'adhered' to the international community' and accepted international law norms.

JANA's editor for international affairs commented on this saying 'the Great Jamahiryah did do anything in breach of international law but it is one of the foremost countries calling for the need to respect international law and its vigorous use in the face of attempts to jeopardize it by America which is seeking to impose its control over the world and use international law for national interest. [sentence as received]

The editor added 'the Great Jamahiryah reasserted and still reasserts its continued condemnation of intervention in the internal affairs of other countries which the American administration has never ceased to practice.

The editor pointed out 'the Great Jamahiryah is one of the victims of state terrorism and the aborted American Atlantic barbaric aggression on the Great Jamahiryah is a case in point. Thus the Great Jamahiryah's rejection and condemnation of terrorism is not based merely on a theoritical stance but on its suffering from this terrorism and the results of the American terrorist aggression including destruction and murdering of innocents in Tripoli and Benghazi. History of international terrorism has never registered a precedent like the American precedent which harnessed 170 warplanes for the attack, under darkness, on the house of the leader of the revolution.

JANA's editor for international affairs reaffirmed 'the Great Jamahiryah dealt positively with all the decisions which did not encroach on its sovereignty.'

Stranded Palestinians To Stage Protest

LD1610221295 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian masses have reiterated their determination to carry out their decision, taken on their own accord, to return to their homeland Palestine. Palestinian sources at the Palestinian "camp of return," on the imaginary borders between the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt, have announced that the Palestinian masses stranded there would declare another general strike tomorrow, Tuesday [17 October] in protest at the non-opening of al-Sallum gateway [border post] for them to cross and head for their homeland Palestine.

These sources added that on this occasion traffic would be stopped on the imaginary borders between Libya and Egypt.

The Palestinian masses in the Palestinian "camp of return" on the imaginary borders between the Great

Jamahiriyah and Egypt had already staged a two-hour strike to stress that they would not go back on their decision to return to their homeland Palestine.

Editor Attacks Reports on Palestinians' Departure

LD1410120895 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1105 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 14 Oct — Some of the Arab and international media have recently reported unfounded information which they attributed vaguely to what they described sometimes as official and other times as unidentified sources. These reports claimed that Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi would soon issue or has actually issued an order, or that he would retract this or that order whenever the media addressed the fundamental cause of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland.

The local affairs editor of the Libyan news agency JANA commented on this issue. He said that "the reports of these information organs regarding this issue reflect a complete ignorance of the administrative structure in the Great Jamahiriyah to the extent that exposes the inadequacy and lack of credibility of their reports on the Great Jamahiriyah which implements a jamhiri system where people rule themselves through people's congresses and committees, a system which has become known to the whole world."

The editor added "the link made by such media between the brother leader of the revolution and decisions taken in the great Jamahiriyah is categorically untrue because the brother leader of the revolution has no official status; he only plays the role of a revolutionary inspirer. This fact removes any credibility from such reports and reaffirms their lack of any journalistic credibility which requires people to use the right words when reporting about any regime in the world by using the correct diplomatic titles."

The editor pointed out that the decision taken by the Palestinian Arab people to return to their homeland is a correct one. He added, however, that brother leader of the revolution did call, out of his concern for the pan-Arab causes and out of his pan-Arab inspiring role, upon the masses of the Palestinian Arab people, living in the great Jamahiriyah, to seize the opportunity of the proclamation of the Palestinian state to reaffim their identity and to return to their homeland. However, once the Palestinian masses answered his call and took the decision to return became, such a decision became a Palestinian one which no-one can retract nor can he dissuade the Palestinian Arab people from re-affirming its right to return to its homeland like the rest of peoples throughout the world.

Al-Qadhdhafi Hails Referendum Vote for Saddam

LD1510211895 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] has made a statement to JANA in which he said: The Iraqi people have dealt a historic smack to the brazen face of the West and its hirelings. The West should learn and benefit from this historic lesson if it wants to correct its course.

The Iraqi people did not, however, say yes to Saddam Husayn. It said yes to death with dignity and no to capitulation. In its view, the issue here was one of challenge to the policies of starvation and humiliation carried out by the West to bring it under its control.

Maybe the Iraqi army was defeated but the unarmed people has won. Maybe the Iraqi leader did not manage to deal a personal blow to the West but the heroic Iraqi people managed to deal a humiliating one. And it was a very professional one indeed, as the old adage says.

So congratulations to the glorious Iraqi people for it has decided to take up the gauntlet to the challenge until death by starvation.

Protocol Signed With Central African Republic

LD1310210695 Tripoli JANA in English 1625 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Surt, al-Timour [October] 13 (JANA) — A cooperation protocol between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Central African Republic was signed in the city of Surt yesterday.

The protocol was signed by the director of economic affairs and cooperation administration at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation. Eric Saranj Jovie, the economic and financial adviser to the president signed the protocol on behalf of the Central African Republic.

The protocol stipulates the revival of the joint committee between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Central African Republic which was established in 1982 with the aim of promoting cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

The protocol also affirmed the need for continued consultations to strengthen cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Central African Republic.

Agreements Signed on Ownership of Farms in Sudan

LD1610213195 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Proceeding from the Declaration of Integration between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Sudan and the executive programs of this declaration and in support of the unionist steps made by the two sisterly countries, agreements were signed in Tripoli this evening giving ownership of 300 farms from the Sundus Agricultural Project in Sudan to Libyan investors. This falls within the framework of the implementation of the "agreements of popular investment" signed by the two sisterly countries.

The signing ceremony took place this evening and was attended by representatives of the Libyan Arab Company of Foreign Investments and the Company for the Development of the East of Jabal Aulia, and also the chairman of the Investment Committee at the General People's Committee for Unity, the chairman of the Board of the Libyan Arab Company of Foreign Investments, the director of the Sundus Agricultural Project, and the secretary general of the Libyan Arab-Sudanese Integration Board.

The signing of the contracts of ownership of farms from the Sundus Agricultural Project to Libyan Arab investors is in implementation of the decision taken by the Libyan Arab-Sudanese Integration Board in its third session. This agreement also complements the unionist steps of integration between the great Jamahiriyah and Sudan.

Morocco

'Arafat Stops in Casablanca, Thanks King

LD1610220895 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat had a short stopover at Mohamed VI International Airport in Casablanca on his way to Columbia to participate in the proceedings of the summit of the Nonaligned Movement.

'Arafat gave a statement at the VIP lounge in which he said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] In fact, I should first express my extreme thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II, for whom our people cherish all appreciation and love. He has exerted considerable effort to enable us reach what we have reached. I have not stopped contacting him during the difficult period, and contacted him nearly on a daily basis to ask for assistance from his experiences and his valuable advice to confront conditions that emerged either in the talks, or from the contacts with all the concerned sides.

I would like to register here his majesty's direct intervention to release the Palestinian female prisoners and the detainees, and also the quick implementation of what has been signed in Washington. If he does not talk about these things, I will talk and say the truth about his good efforts for us in frankness and clarity. Actually, God willing, on 25 October the vanguards of our forces will be sent to the Jenin area to assume their responsibilities. The hand-over will take about 15 to 17 days. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Regional, Arab Issues

MM1710105095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Oct 95 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dirgham] Your speech at the UN General Assembly contained the language of escalation with Egypt. You spoke of rejection of organized terrorism and interference, and imposition of the status quo. Is that going to characterize Sudanese-Egyptian relations, or is there something to encourage one to expect an improvement in relations?

[Taha] Sudan has always sought to maintain positive relations with all states in the region, especially Egypt. Our speech was a reply to the clear hints at my country in the Egyptian speech. However, we are keen for the Egyptian-Sudanese dispute to be tackled away from international forums and within a direct bilateral framework so that it can be resolved wisely and away from tensions.

[Dirgham] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said in an interview with AL-HAYAH that anything can be resolved, stressing that the only problem is the terrorism coming from Sudan. Have you discussed this issue with the Egyptians?

[Taha] We have in the past discussed the issue in bilateral meetings. We agreed to begin to tackle it comprehensively and to address the interests of either party. It's all right for Egypt's security interests to be on the top of the agenda. The opportunity is still available as long as the Egyptian side has the serious desire to meet, away from media statements.

[Dirgham] The Ethiopian prime minister spoke again about the Sudanese Government's implication in sheltering those who participated in and planned the attempt on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

[Taha] There is no evidence to support such talk. We have announced our willingness to cooperate with the Ethiopian authorities once they provide details to help us to search for any suspects.

[Dirgham] It seems that Sudan has disputes with all its neighbors, as though it had surrounded itself with enmity. Do you not think that you are pursuing erroneous policies?

[Taha] It is untrue that Sudan is in enmity with all its neighbors. There is a problem with some neighbors because of the war in southern Sudan and because some of these states support and shelter the rebels. The problems with the other states are attributable to the involvement of these states in the scheme aimed at stirring up trouble in the region and hitting regional cooperation efforts, especially after the emergence of a serious desire to revive the regional cooperation organization. We are for dialogue with the states that are not involved in this scheme, and we have no problems. For example, we have made progress in relations with Chad and the borders have been demarcated. The same applies to relations with Zaire, Central Africa, Libya, and the other states not involved in the scheme aimed at isolating the states of the Horn of Africa.

[Dirgham] I am talking about relations with very important states such as Egypt and Ethiopia. I am talking about your isolation in the region as a result of the policies you are pursuing.

[Taha] I reemphasize that the states you mentioned are directly adjacent to Sudan. Sudan has borders with nine states. The problems with some states are transient and can be tackled given a serious desire to transcend the marginal role in the international scheme and eagerness to maintain bilateral cooperation. As for Egypt, it was the Egyptians who started the tension in the early months of the salvation regime in Sudan. We are still keen to maintain positive Sudanese-Egyptian relations in the framework of recognition of the special nature of conditions in Sudan and Sudan's right to make its own decisions.

[Dirgham] You visited the Gulf states, except Kuwait, last month. What do you have in mind vis-a-vis the Gulf states? And what is the nature of contacts with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

[Taha] We extend a hand of cooperation to our brothers in the Gulf region and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We note that the gap caused by the Gulf war has begun to narrow between us and our brothers in that region. We value highly the role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Islamic issues, especially its role in supporting the Bosnian issue. We believe that there are broad prospects for cooperation between us and the Gulf states and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

[Dirgham] But the political rhetoric of the Sudanese Government and official media, especially the radio and the press, is pursuing a hard line and causing numerous sensitivities with states' leaders. Why are you adopting such rhetoric?

[Taha] The language of political rhetoric changes according to circumstances and factors. But in terms of substance, it is based on fixed values posing threats to no one. They are values seeking to reinforce regional cooperation, especially cooperation at the Arab and Islamic levels.

[Dirgham] Did you discuss with the Gulf states your previous stands on the Gulf war, in the sense of apologizing for or backtracking on the position you adopted then?

[Taha] The talks dealt with matters more positively in terms of clarifying and explaining past positions and expressing the real and sincere desire to establish future relations based on more cooperation and a real desire for joint action.

[Dirgham] Why did the Sudanese Government impose entry visas on Arabs about a month ago?

[Taha] That was in the framework of the revision I referred to. We had opened Sudan's doors to Arab brothers in a bid to attract Arab attention to that remote part of the nation. When we realized that this noble aim had been misunderstood, we changed the policies in order to close the door to misinterpretations and keep elements entering Sudan under control.

[Dirgham] Do you mean by that the accusation that you sponsor terrorism?

[Taha] That was one interpretation which some people tried to promote by exploiting the facilitation of visa procedures. But we are still keen to pursue policies that reassure our brothers in the Arab countries without hampering popular contacts between the sons of the nation in Sudan and the other states.

[Dirgham] What positions do you intend to adopt to reassure the states: that is, to change Sudan's image and refute the accusation of sponsoring terrorism? What measures do you intend to take?

[Taha] We are currently continuing contacts and consultations — which is in itself very important. We are also opening Sudan's doors to the media and political research circles to closely examine the situation and ascertain the truth. We are also participating in the issues of our nation and region, with ideas based on the affirmation of the constants of joint Arab interests and efforts to reduce the prospects for aggravation and disagreement.

[Dirgham] A senior Iranian official told AL-WASAT magazine last week that Iran supplies Sudan with arms. What truth is there in this? And if it is not true, why did a senior Iranian official offer such information?

[Taha] There is always a problem as regards the accuracy of press reports on sensitive issues such as the arms issue. Sudan is engaged in a war imposed on it. It needs arms to secure its borders and defend its territorial integrity. That is a legitimate aim. In this context Sudan obtains arms from several sources which I am not going to disclose. However, it does not use the arms as a means to threaten the security of others.

[Dirgham] Have you received arms from Iran?

[Taha] Yes. Sudan has had an arms deal with Iran in the past.

[Dirgham] When did you receive the last consignment of arms?

[Taha] That was several years ago and it was a limited consignment.

[Dirgham] Do you have any arms deals at present?

[Taha] There is no military cooperation between Sudan and Iran, contrary to what is stated in numerous press reports.

[Dirgham] Just for the sake of clarification: Is Iran providing Sudan with any arms at present?

[Taha] No. Not at all.

[Dirgham] A responsible Iranian official has spoken about ideological differences with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi. What are the ideological differences between al-Turabi and the Iranians?

[Taha] I am not in a position to state what are the points of agreement or differences between al-Turabi's line of thinking and that of Iran. This is a question you should ask Dr. al-Turabi himself.

Sudan is now undertaking a new Islamic renovation attempt which takes into consideration the realities of the situation, and is trying to understand the points of reference of Islamic fundamentals in the context of modern times. Thus its experience is to maintain an open mind to all schools of contemporary political ideological interpretative opinion in the Islamic arena.

[Dirgham] Do you think there is an ideological conflict now between the Iran of today and the Sudan of al-Turabi?

[Taha] The Sudan of al-Turabi? I do not accept this phrase. Al-Turabi is not Sudan. Besides, Sudan's political and ideological options are too wide to be confined to the sphere of one religious opinion interpreter or one thinker, whatever his influence in the national arena or the Islamic arena in general might be.

Differences of opinions and thoughts are normal, particularly when taking into consideration the effect of geographical distances and differences in historical background on the understanding and interpretation of Islamic events.

[Dirgham] Are you still the deputy secretary general of the National Islamic Front?

[Taha] At present, there is no National Islamic Front, but there is a wide Islamic current being formed consisting of those who previously belonged to the Islamic school that existed within all the national parties including the Islamic Front.

[Dirgham] Do you support the fundamentalist expansion in East and North Africa?

[Taha] We support the Islamic awakening and the return of religion to the sphere of action, influence, and reference in dealing with issues of the contemporary world. But we do not support any specific current in any of the countries of the Islamic world be it inside Africa or outside it.

[Dirgham] Then you are against extremism and fundamentalism. Is that so?

[Taha] We are against recourse to violence in the imposition of opinions by any side whatsoever. We support dialogue and respect for others' opinions as long as they lead to serving the public interest through conviction and through respect for others' points of view.

[Dirgham] The government has affirmed that the elections for the presidency of the republic and the parliament will take place in 1996. Are these dates still valid and have any nominations been made? Are there guarantees of freedom of the elections?

[Taha] Our forthcoming parliamentary elections constitute a link in the chain of building the political system in Sudan. We are anxious to create a positive climate with a view to guaranteeing a genuine contest among the candidates within the framework of ideological plurality but without party platforms. God willing, these elections will take place next year if matters continue as they are at present.

[Dirgham] You said without party plurality or platforms. Is that what you said?

[Taha] Our elections take place within the framework of a political system that provides open opportunities for various ideas and political opinions. It rejects the holding of elections on the basis of partisan, tribal, or regional tickets.

[Dirgham] But there is no party plurality nor are there any permitted party platforms. So how can the elections actually be secure and provide guarantees for participation by the population?

[Taha] The elections take place without any political isolation or the exclusion of any person because of his attitude toward any part of the political program in the arena. Everyone has complete freedom to try as much as he can to convince the voters to elect him on the basis of his civil outlook.

Thus the elections will take place on the basis of individual nomination. This nomination could cover candidates who had belonged to proscribed old parties. What I mean is that nobody will be brought to account because of his past affiliation to any party or political side or because of any opinions and ideas he expresses even if they conflict with the policies of the current government in any of its aspects.

[Dirgham] But why are you afraid of plurality, parties, party organizations, and party platforms?

[Taha] It is not a question of fear but one of an outlook based on experience. We believe that the party system, which Sudan has tried three times, has not succeeded in establishing a true democratic Shura system, because the requisites for liberal democracy and party plurality do not exist here in Sudan, as the experience of the past three years has shown. We are trying at present to undertake an experiment through the current political system which would give the Sudanese people the ability to exercise free choice.

[Dirgham] Sudan has announced the release of detainees. But there are still some people in the prisons. What do you say to that?

[Taha] There are no political detainees or political prisoners in prison at present, as all have been released in accordance with the recent measures. There are no political prisoners in Sudan at present. There are prisoners but they are in prison because they have committed ordinary crimes. But there are no political prisoners at all in Sudan at present.

[Dirgham] What are Sudan's objections to the conference which the [Sudanese] opposition is scheduled to hold in Egypt this month?

[Taha] The opposition has the right to meet and decide whatever it wants. We, however, view the matter in the light of the principle of noninterference in the affairs of others, which we consider as one of the pillars on which political dealings between us and Egypt are based. It is because of this that we object to any country permitting the holding of such a conference, particularly when such conferences are based on calling for acts of violence, as has recently been evident from the behavior of the Sudanese opposition.

[Dirgham] You personally were leader of the opposition in parliament in the democratic era. When democracy prevails, the opposition does not find itself obliged to hold meetings in another country.

[Taha] What would you say if the Egyptian opposition were to meet in Khartoum? It would be said then that Sudan was interfering in Egypt's affairs and that it supports terrorism and such talk.

Opposition, in principle, is something necessary so as to monitor government performance and provide alternatives to serve the public interest. But opposition that is linked to the struggle for power alone, is another matter.

[Dirgham] The Sudanese Government is now the only major side that refuses to grant the right of self-determination to the people of the south. All the principal opposition [parties] have agreed to this, as you are aware. Why then do you insist on your position despite the fact that solving this problem would help Sudan immensely?

[Taha] The right of self-determination, according to all the international covenants, cannot be viewed within the framework of a state that is one independent entity. The acceptance of this principle indicates lack of seriousness about and disregard for the country's unity, for the sake of gaining a temporary political point.

We believe that Sudan is a united and independent country and it is this government's responsibility to safeguard this unity of the country. But at the same time, we have offered the south other ways to express its future participation in government, without secession or the partitioning of the country.

[Dirgham] Khartoum has been sponsoring an accord between the Palestinian National Authority and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). Have your efforts achieved any qualitative step?

[Taha] There are contacts going on, but on a popular basis and the government has nothing to do with them. However, we feel that the reaching of an accord among the various Palestinian sides in the present critical stage is one of the best guarantees of safeguarding the

Palestinian people's rights within the framework of the peace that is being developed at present.

[Dirgham] What is new in the sphere of American-Sudanese relations?

[Taha] Despite the reservations we have about American policies, particularly in our region — just like the U.S. Administration which has its reservations on the Sudanese Government's policies — we believe that the tackling of these reservations and the exploration of horizons of cooperation between the two countries can take place through dialogue. It was for this reason that we welcomed the United States' dispatch of a new ambassador to Khartoum. We, on our part, are now contemplating the dispatch of a Sudanese ambassador to Washington and have expressed our desire for the holding of a serious dialogue between the two sides based on the recognition of each side's right to determine its stances provided that room is left for common dealing.

[Dirgham] Has the United States approved your proposition?

[Taha] This matter is still under discussion.

[Dirgham] Is anybody trying to mediate between the two sides?

[Taha] No.

Minister Receives Nationals From Iraqi Jails

EA1610205295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Culture and Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat today welcomed a number of Sudanese who had been detained in Iraq and released recently following an agreement signed between the two countries. The prosecutor general, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Ibrahim, said that the Sudanese Embassy in Baghdad continued to follow up the problems facing the returnees until they were released. He stressed that Sudan will keep its doors open to all. He thanked fraternal Iraq, and stressed the need for cooperation between the two countries.

Defense Minister Visits Army Division in Darfur

EA1610211595 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The defense minister, Lieutenant General Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman, has praised the performance of the 3d Infantry Division in the operational areas, and that of the active units along the borders of Darfur State. He said the condition of the Armed Forces has now improved in terms of preparedness, equipment, and personnel. He said his visit to the state is in line with the Defense Ministry's efforts to familiarize itself with the problems facing the various divisions of the Armed Forces in the country with a view to containing those problems.

Tunisia

Paris Said Planning Large Increase in Annual Aid

BR0610150895 Paris LA TRIBUNE DESFOSSES in French 6 Oct p 7

[Report by Alain Baron: "Tunisia: French Aid Will Be Practically Doubled"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris intends to "practically double" its annual aid to Tunisia in 1995, which totalled 594 million francs [Fr] last year. Jacques Chirac announced this yesterday [5 October] during his state visit to Tunis, talking of "more than Fr1 billion a year," a figure which the French president described as "an exceptional effort" during the speech he gave to members of the French-speaking community there. One source closely involved with the dossier revealed in addition that a protocol worth Fr9 million would be going toward the modernization of the Tunis stock exchange.

The French aid, he pointed out, is primarily being channeled in two directions: company modernization and agricultural aid. Consequently, a major credit for grain has been awarded since Tunisia — like Morocco, albeit to a lesser extent — suffered a drought. [passage omitted]

Tunisia Has Opted for 'The Future'

All these are elements that indicate the desire on the part of the French Government and French president, "a great friend of President Ben Ali" according to the banners displayed in the town, to support the Tunisian regime, despite the criticisms being voiced here and there regarding the country's democratic weaknesses. Jacques Chirac, who travelled to Tunisia with [National Assembly speaker] Philippe Seguin — the delegation's ethnic member — and four ministers, intends to demonstrate his support for a moderate Muslim country and show that he is intent on seeing "stability among the Maghreb countries," as he himself has said.

The fact that France is going through a period of real tension, with all eyes on the Muslim community there following bomb attacks attributed to Islamic groups, makes the presence of French Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debre in Tunis all the more significant. [passage omitted]

President Chirac's visit comes two-and-a-half months after his trip to Morocco. A choice that was not the product of chance. Rabat and Tunis represent two areas of stability in a Maghreb region shaken by the Algerian crisis.

Finally, by making this official trip to Tunisia, which recently occupied the presidency of the Organization of African Unity and which had been a prominent participant during the North Africa- Middle East economic conference held in Casablanca one year ago, Jacques Chirac shows that he, too, intends to rely on Tunis to play a more active role in regional policy, especially in the run-up to two major events, namely the economic conference in Amman at the end of the month, and the big European-Mediterranean meeting in Barcelona at the end of November.

Arrest of MDS Leader Called 'Insult' to Paris

BR1210161195 Paris LES ECHOS in French 12 Oct 95 p 56

[Editorial: "Tunisia and Human Rights"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The arrest of Tunisia's legal opposition leader Mohamed Mouada is clearly bound to have annoyed the French president. The official line is that a search of the home of the president of the Socialist Democratic Movement led to the discovery of several documents revealing that Mohamed Mouada maintained "secret and felonious" relations with a foreign country in return for large amounts of money. One knew that under cover of fighting fundamentalism, Tunisia has been behaving as an authoritarian regime, complete with political prisoners (2,000) and muzzled media. However, taking place only a few days after Jacques Chirac's visit in Tunis, when the French head of state had glowing words about Tunisia's progress toward "modernization and democratic opening" and granted this country over Fr1 billion in aid, Mohamed Mouada's arrest is viewed as an insult for Paris.

In fact, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali might merely have interpreted Jacques Chirac's visit as a license to do as he pleases. Especially in the run up to the Euro-Mediterranean conference scheduled for 27 and 28 November in Barcelona. Indeed, those rulers asking for a partnership with Europe do not wish the issue of human rights in their countries to be discussed as demanded by the European Commission. France probably sought to remove a few obstacles. But one has to know where to stop. Especially after the explanations Jacques Chirac insisted on giving about his impending New York meeting with Algerian counterpart Liamine Zeroual.

Bahrain

'Leading Figures' Appeal for Parliament Restoration

NC1410183495 Paris AFP in English
1740 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Oct 14 (AFP) - Dozens of leading Bahraini figures are calling on the government in Manama to restore the country's constitution and parliament, a statement received here Saturday [14 October] said.

In a declaration said to have been faxed and mailed to the government, members of the former parliament, lawyers, business people, academics and journalists also called for the release of all political prisoners in Bahrain.

"The text, which already includes 44 signatures, including Muhammad Jabir Sabah and Muhsin Hamid Marhun, two former MPs, is currently being circulated among the authorities," several of the signatories told AFP when contacted from Nicosia.

The statement "is designed to prove to the authorities our determination to continue the struggle for the realization of the demands stated in the petition," one signatory said.

A similar petition in 1994 drew 25,000 signatures, he added.

The arrest last December of one of the petition signers, Shaykh 'Ali Salman, a Shiite Moslem leader, provoked civil unrest in the Gulf country that calmed in April after causing at least a dozen deaths.

The majority of the signers in this petition are Sunni Moslems.

Saudi Arabia

French Defense Minister Millon Pays Visit

Holds Talks With Prince Sultan

LD1410212295 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1850 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 14 Oct — His Excellency the French Defense Minister Charles Millon has stated that he would hold talks during his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, about all issues of peace and stability in the world and in the Middle East region.

In a statement to the press on his arrival in Jeddah this afternoon, his excellency [Millon] said that the French President Jacques Chirac had charged him with conveying a message of cordiality to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques and the Saudi people. [passage omitted]

For his part HRH Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz stressed that Saudi-French relations were far greater than just armaments, as there were political, economic, cultural, and military relations between the two countries.

In a similar statement to the press, his royal highness said that these relations were founded on the principles of working for peace in the world and for common interests of the Saudi and the French peoples. [passage omitted]

Delivers Chirac Message to King Fahd

LD1510002295 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2344 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 14 Oct — King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God preserve him, received a message from His Excellency President Jacques Chirac, president of the Republic of France.

French Defense Minister Charles Million delivered the message to the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God support him, when he received Millon at his office at al-Salam Palace today. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

LD1510193295 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1707 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 15 Oct (SPA) — French Defense Minister Charles Millon held a news conference in Jeddah today. He said that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, while receiving him yesterday, had expressed great interest in the existing relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the French Republic.

The French minister said: "The custodian of the two holy mosques expressed his wish for my visit, in addition to President Jacques Chirac's coming visit, to bolster the existing strong relations of friendship between the two countries that were established by General De Gaulle and King Faysal."

He added: "I have reaffirmed before the custodian of the two holy mosques and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz France's interest in the Saudi role in the Gulf region, especially via the Gulf Cooperation Council of the Arab Gulf states, as well as the Kingdom's role in the context of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC]."

He said: "You undoubtedly know of the French president's insistence on the participation of the Islamic OIC Contact Group in the works of the Western Contact Group in order to find a solution for the Bosnian problem." [passage omitted]

The French minister said that during the next few weeks the Kingdom and France will coordinate their stances so as the war in Bosnia ends as quickly as it is hoped so that we can supervise the reconstruction period.

In reply to a question about the stances of the Kingdom and France vis-a-vis the danger that the Iraqi regime constitute in the region and the Iranian policies, the French minister said "that the French stance is similar to and totally congruent with the stance expressed by the custodian of the two holy mosques and His Highness Prince Sultan during my meetings with them." He added: "Prince Sultan reminded us of his commitment to the necessity of respecting the territorial integrity of Iraq; this issue is one of the constant stances of the Kingdom and France, and we actually hope that the Security Council resolutions will be honored whether with regard to the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, respecting the minorities, or honoring the frontiers. France, he added, reaffirms that these resolutions be honored in a very precise manner; France, which stood by the alliance countries during the Kuwait war of liberation, will always endeavor that the respect of these principles be imposed by the Security Council.

Regarding the balance of power in the region, the French defense minister said: "We have insisted on the extreme necessity to make every effort in order to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and on this occasion we discussed the recent nuclear tests by France." He added that "the custodian of the two holy mosques and His Highness Prince Sultan were acquainted with the French stance as France is a superpower — the stance that outlines the reason for the recent nuclear tests we conducted."

Concerning Iran, the French minister pointed out that he and Prince Sultan had emphasized the necessity of fairness in dealing with all countries. However, any attempt at hegemony should be condemned. We hope that Iran will always observe the necessary balance among the nations and the territorial integrity of these nations.

The French defense minister pointed out that his visit was in response to an invitation by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general. He pointed out that the main aim of the visit was to affirm anew the friendly relations between Saudi Arabia and France in addition to discussing the economic, military, and other issues of mutual interest.

He said: I have reviewed with His Royal Highness Prince Sultan a number of issues, at the forefront of which were the Middle East, Palestine, and Iran. His royal highness informed me about the Saudi analysis of and views on these issues. He added: We noticed that the stances of the two countries were identical toward the majority of the issues and in all fields.

He emphasized that the two countries aspired to see the resolutions of the UN Security Council respected, a matter that will allow international relations to develop.

He indicated that his talks with His Highness Prince Sultan dealt with the Bosnian problem which, he insisted, is being followed personally by French President Jacques Chirac as it is the case in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He said: "I pointed out France's commitments toward this problem; it is a problem that is very close to our heart because it touches the heart of Europe and the sovereignty of the Bosnia state."

Furthermore, he indicated that his talks dealt with economic and military relations and that the second deputy prime minister, minister of aviation, and inspector general had shown interest in French technology.

Nonetheless, he pointed out: "Of course, we only discussed the outlines of such topics; we want the experts on these matters to examine the details and come up with the necessary proposals and reach the appropriate agreements."

He added "In order to stress the level of the good relations between France and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a meeting is being held at this very moment to agree on a number of details concerning the two countries' exchanges."

Replying to a question on whether His Highness Prince Sultan will pay a visit to France or not, the French defense minister said an invitation had actually been extended to his highness; he hoped that the visit will be an official one and that he will be very happy to receive him on an official visit on a date to be agreed later.

In a reply to a question about his view of the information that pointed to a new Iraqi movement in preparation for another invasion of Kuwait, on account that French companies had interests in Iraq, Charles Millon said: "We have only supported policies that respected the territories of countries, peoples, and nations, and we will not take into account the presumed interests of this or that company as bases on which to establish our foreign policy [no closing quotation mark as received].

He pointed out that: France has defense and cooperation agreements with a number of Gulf countries, and traditional and strong friendship relations that are embodied by political stances, such as the ones I am announcing at this moment, or are embodied by trade and economic agreements with the Gulf countries, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is axiomatic that the Kingdom is the major nation that provides balance to this region of the world.

He said that France was willing to continue in contracting distinguished relations, particularly with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in pursuance of the tradition established by King Faysal and President de Gaulle.

Concerning the existence of an Iraqi provocation, he said: Provocations could be discovered through surveillance devices, and the surveillance and monitoring devices allow us at each time to observe any movement in order to have a response, but I cannot in a news conference brief you on military information which, for example, could be the subject of study by your country, or other countries in the alliance, be it the United States, or France, and I simply say that if there was a threat of any kind, France will not accept it.

Regarding the views of France vis-a-vis the Saudi economic situation and Saudi-French relations, he said: "I would like to repeat once more that I responded to the invitation sent to me by His Highness Prince Sultan in order to carry a message from his excellency the president to King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and to recall the traditional friendship bonds between France and the Kingdom. The French defense minister said: "Yesterday during my audience with the custodian of the two holy mosques, he reassured me anew that in both the civilian and military spheres if there are any requirements by the Kingdom it will turn to France to obtain what is needed." As for our judgement on the Saudi economy, he added, we observe with optimism today that the Kingdom is able to actually face up to the difficult situations resulting from the great military effort caused by the conflict with Iraq as a result of the latter's invasion of Kuwait; the Saudi economy today has strong signs that it has recovered. [passage omitted]

The French defense minister pointed out that he had also discussed during his talks with the King and Prince Sultan to the acts of violence in France and the Algerian question, without there being a link between the two. He said that the custodian of the two holy mosques expressed his concern regarding all acts of violence.

On the new French policy vis-a-vis the peace process in the Middle East he said: We have touched upon the issue of Palestine with Prince Sultan, and it goes without saying that France welcomes the agreement signed by 'Arafat and Rabin. France, as a permanent member of the Security Council and as a nation from the European Union, is following it with great interest and will use all means of influence at its disposal to back up this agreement, and will endeavor to establish the peace process on permanent bases.

He added: "The burdens of the peace process are not shouldered by France or the United States, nor by the European Union. Those who shoulder fully the burdens of the peace process are the Palestinians themselves and the Israelis, and it seems this is the best and safest course [no closing quotation mark as received]. [passage omitted]

Meets With Crown Prince

LD1510211295 Riyadh SPA in English
1917 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Oct 15, SPA — Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, received here today visiting French Defence Minister Charles Millon and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Nasir al-Shithri, the advisor at the Royal Court, Lt. General Salih al-Muhayyah, the commander of the land forces, Major-General Muhammad Hasan 'Abd-al-Ghani, the Saudi military attache in France, and French ambassador to the kingdom Hubert de la Fortelle.

Leaves Jeddah

LD1510191995 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1804 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 15 Oct — French Minister of Defense Charles Millon and his accompanying delegation left Jeddah today following a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

The French minister of defense was given an official farewell ceremony at the airport. He was accompanied after his arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz to the rostrum of honor where the Saudi and French national anthems were played. [passage omitted]

Visit Marks 'Major Opening Up' to Region

MM1310131595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Oct 95 p 7

[Report by Mustafa Shihab: "French Diplomatic Sources Say: Millon's Visit to Saudi Arabia Beginning of Major Opening up to Arab region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh — French diplomatic sources in Riyadh expect French Defense Minister Charles Millon's visit to Jeddah tomorrow, Saturday, to pave the way for a visit to Saudi Arabia by President Jacques Chirac early next year, after Christmas and before the holy month of Ramadan.

The visit will take place at an invitation President Chirac received from Custodian of the Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. It was conveyed by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal during his second meeting with the French president in Paris last month.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that Millon's visit to Saudi Arabia paves the way for a major French opening up to the Arab region, in particular the Kingdom. It is expected to be followed by visits by other French officials. Foreign Minister Herve de Charette and Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debre are expected to pay two visits to Saudi Arabia before President Chirac's visit.

Contrary to expectations, the French diplomatic sources ruled out that the talks between the French defense minister and Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister and defense and aviation minister, will focus on new arms deals between the two countries. However, they did not rule out that the talks will deal with military cooperation issues in general.

The French sources described Millon's visit to Saudi Arabia as a fact-finding visit designed to establish direct contacts between officials in the two countries, since France is seeking to explore the Arab World's desire to build new foundations for firmly established relations inspired by the De Gaulle era. The sources said that the neo-Gaullists criticized former President Francois Mitterrand's era, saying that his policies toward the Arab region caused relations to remain static at levels that do not match France's historic relationship with the Arab world.

With regard to this question in particular, the new regime in France expresses a clear desire to return to the Gaullist policy toward the Arab world and to devote more interest to Arab issues, especially as regards the peace process in the Middle East, the situation in Algeria, and the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem.

The French sources believe that current conditions are favorable for discussing the issue of developing French relations with the Arab world in general and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in particular. The sources pointed in this context to President Chirac's first meeting, on the eve of his assumption of the presidency in France, with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who was the first official from outside France to meet with Chirac.

The sources believe that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's first visit, and his second visit early last month, are evidence of the two countries' desire to develop their relations at all levels.

The sources expect Millon's talks with Prince Sultan and the Saudi officials with whom he might meet to deal with the spheres of cooperation between the two countries, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the situation in Iraq, and the situation vis-a-vis Muslims in France in the light of recent bombings there.

CDLR Bulletin Contains 'Important Message'

MS1010134795 London CDLR Monitor in English 22 Sep 95

[Bulletin No. 66 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR) — received via Internet 10 October]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know

This article contains an important message to the whole society, but is particularly important for various personalities who will read it, hopefully with care and contemplation. It is hoped that the article will not be misunderstood.

In an oppressive environment, the connection between a teacher and his student, or between a preacher and his follower, becomes severed. Society is transformed into numerous small groups isolated from each other, all suffering from a lack of communication between each other and being prohibited from any form of media communication. Such isolation will necessarily lead to an increasing situation in which certain individuals take control of all decisions and actions. This type of situation forces these small groups within society to debate internally when they fail to communicate with each other. This results in:-

1) The exchange of ideological differences between the groups transforms into feuds, rather than complimenting each other.

2) The growth of extremism because of the absence of an environment that allows healthy debate and the ex-

change of ideas. A healthy environment reduces extremism and encourages more moderate views. Despite this, an open ideological struggle between two distinct ideologies is still inevitable, and each would have a share according to the circumstances at the time.

The first ideology is that of an oppressive regime which is forced upon the people through the media, press, intellectuals, scholars and writers who are all employed by the regime in question. However, the people do not believe or accept what the authorities proclaim because they are aware of the nature of such fabricated and misleading information.

The second ideology is that of the opposition, which may have the chance to reach people in spite of the oppression and tyranny, mainly due to the fact that people strive to hear the truth and the news which is hidden by the official press and media.

Reaching people through the opposition, in the face of the restrictions imposed by a dictatorship, depends on the efforts made to spread the ideology of the opposition. However, when the opposition is spreading its ideas through the available resources, it cannot help monopolising the thoughts presented. This is unavoidable because of the fact that there is a greater chance of hearing the views of those in open opposition to the authorities, than there is a hearing the views of those intellectuals who prefer to remain in their own isolated groups.

The opposing ideology, if suitable media and press opportunities were made available, would be able to exert a greater influence on the public mentality at all levels of society in a very noticeable manner. Conversely, small, isolated groups will never have much impact, or create any real public influence because it is only possible to reach the public openly by one of two methods. That route is by either being with the regime or against it. Otherwise, you would remain in a limited circle with very limited influence, and your role becomes the criticism of both the opposition and the Government, whilst not actually producing an effective alternative or message.

The reason behind the publicity was not only for the quality of its message, its concern for people and the defence of their basic rights, but was also because the Committee has removed itself from the circle of the ruling authority and has conveyed its message from outside the regimes boundaries. This has led to an unintentional monopoly of thought that was not in any way planned, but was due to the impossibility of reaching the public through closed circles and groups.

We mention such facts for a very important reason, that is, the immense responsibility undertaken by those few opposed to the rulers, and the great consequences of their message. This responsibility has greatly increased due to the progress of the struggle between the Government and the reform movement, which has reached a most critical stage where numerous disputes are evident in all sectors. In addition, due to the absence of free, open debate, the tendency towards extremism has increased. For example: a dispute over the stand of the regime has one side believing that the regime is righteous and Islamic, whilst another side views them as an infidel regime and that anyone connected to the regime is an infidel. Another example concerns the practical stand towards the regime, where some believe that they should isolate themselves in their houses and mosques in order to concentrate on their worship and faith, whilst another group believe that the only solution is through a comprehensive revolt against the regime and everyone connected to them, including the ordinary soldier and policeman. Yet a further example is with regard to the stand of the official scholars. In this, one side considers the official scholars to be faithful and righteous, whilst others consider them to be hypocrites and cronies.

The differences are also great regarding judging the situation in the Kingdom and in the assessment of the strength of the regime and the strength of the 'Awakening,' as well as differences regarding the preparation and willingness of the people for change. Some people regard the regime as being strong and that it will remain for decades to come. This group believes the people to be in the worst degrees of slavery and that the awakening is an unfeasible project which has no grounds for success. Alternatively, there are many who believe that the regime's collapse is imminent, and that the people will take to the streets.

Such people believe the 'Awakening' to be a complete and perfect movement capable of bringing about miracles.

As the pressure increases on the Muslim youth, and as the oppression, group arrests, sackings and even killings escalate, the tension and disputes increase between the various parties. This does not mean that the regime is gaining from such disputes. In fact, the regime may even be in danger from such activities.

The exposure of the regime to danger does not mean that the reform process will necessarily gain from such activities. This is because the anticipation of gains and losses in such ideological chaos is extremely difficult to predict. The most effective way to reduce such chaos is by direct intervention and the guiding of public opinion in the correct direction. This will be carried out by the Committee most enthusiastically in order to correct extreme opinions.

Despite the wide connections and important relations of the Committee, both inside and outside the Kingdom, and due to the oppressive situation making lengthy ideological debate and consultations with all the various opposition groups practically impossible, the Committee will therefore do its utmost with the resources available, to achieve their responsibilities of the directing of thoughts and ideas.

For those who have not yet realised the great sensitivity of this stage must then review their ideas, and they should not depend on their own judgement alone regarding events on the streets, as this can give the impression of normal life.

Instead, they must investigate and assess the huge disputes and argyments amongst all the various groups in society and the amount of contempt the people hold for the regime. Whether or not those who care for the future of the country agree with us on our assessments, we have no choice but to proceed on these grounds and to discuss sensitive issues in order to reach moderate ground for action and to save the Nation from extremism and negativism on both sides. The example we have given was our study presented in the series on the legitimacy of the regime, which we felt was widely acceptable and led to common ideological ground between the many people concerned with such legitimacy. The Committee appeals to all intellectuals, scholars, reformers etc. to participate more effectively with the Committee in order to assist them in such difficult tasks.

News — Maha al-Sudayri in America

During her stay in America this summer, Maha al-Sudayri appeared to forget that she was living outside the jurisdiction of her "ministry," when she embroiled herself in an embarrassing incident with the American police. One of her Erithrean servants was subjected to such a severe beating that she had to be hospitalised. Maha al-Sudayri was subsequently questioned by the police with regard to this matter.

Nayif is desperately attempting to contain the situation by offering an amount of money to the servant in question in an attempt to buy her silence. Maha al-Sudayri is spending the summer at a first class hotel in Orlando, Florida and much of the hotel has been reserved for several months for her personal enjoyment. Needless to say, many millions of dollars have been spent on her vacation.

'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Fahd in Land Grab

Near the Prophet's Mosque in Medina there is a huge piece of land which has been the subject of dispute in court between two parties with no result. The land in question is estimated to be worth around 50 million riyals. News of this land reached the ears of 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Fahd, who immediately coverted the land for his own use. Hence, he quickly obtained a decree from his loving father granting him the land. So, after many years of dispute between two other parties, within a matter of hours the land became the property of 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

News From al-Bahah

The press and media in the Kingdom released in detail news of the crash, in an American state, of a Cessna training plane costing around $10,000. At the same time, on the 23/3/1416H, an aeroplane of the F5 type, costing a few million dollars, crashed in the al-Bahah region. The pilot, Captain Ahmad al-Zahrani, was killed and several bystanders were slightly injured. However, this crash received no news coverage. The puzzling question is why the authorities are hiding such information from the public, and particularly the news of the pilot's death?

The Fate of Farming

Despite the inability of the Government over the last few years to pay farmers, the Government is now demanding that the farmers pay their debts to the farming bank and other banks this year. Also, an official decision has been issued to all wheat farmers that there will be very limited storage facilities in the wheat silos, which means they must reduce or stop their production. We can confirm that the limited quantity reserved is for the produce from farms owned by princes, or that are part owned by princes.

'Abbar & Zayni And 'Ali Rida On The Brink of Bankruptcy

The successful businessmen, 'Abbar & Zayni, have decided to finalise their business ventures in the Kingdom. One of them, Petrostar is a large petroleum company with several petrol tankers and petroleum product manufacturers. 'Abbar & Zayni had to resort to this decision after losing all hope of receiving the money they are owed by the Government, which accounts to 600 million dollars. Mr. 'Ali Rida is going through the same crisis. He is owed about 1/2 billion dollars by the Government. Mr. 'Ali Rida sent an official letter to the finance ministry explaining that if he did not receive his money during the coming six months, he would have to officially declare bankruptcy. If 'Ali Rida is going to declare his bankruptcy officially, this means that many others have been made bankrupt but have not declared so publicly. Many such businessmen are now living on their reputations and past, as their assets have disappeared and their debts increased to huge amounts.

The Government is putting pressure on many businessmen to keep silent about their problems. It is mentioned that one of the billionaires, Bakr Bin-Ladin, has not received more than a tenth of the money owed him by the Government, which in total amounts to several billions at least, whilst he is unable to complain about such a ridiculous situation.

Al Luhaydan In An Accident

Shaykh Salih al-Luhaydan, Head of the High Judiciary Council, had an accident on the road between Al-Ta'if and Mecca from which he escaped unhurt. This news in not about the actual accident itself, but is with regard to what happened after the accident. Al-Luhaydan instructed the police to keep news of the accident quiet and he also instructed them to record the names of all those who witnessed the accident and make them promise not to talk about the accident. People close to the Shaykh explained that this was because the general public may interpret the accident as a punishment from God for Al-Luhaydan's role in the crime against Al-Hudhayf.

Shaykh al-Marzuqi Back To Prison

Shaykh Salih al-Marzuqi, a former civil servant in the royal administration, has been returned to prison, for the second time, for over a month and a half now. We have learned that the investigation is concentrated on how news of his first arrest reached the Committee and was published in their bulletins. In Medina, Dr. Jibrin al-Jibrin, a professor of Arabic in the Islamic University, was arrested a short while after his sacking. Amongst the names added to the list of sackings are Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Qari and Dr. Musa al-Qarni of the Islamic University in Medina.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Calls For Reconciliation With Iraq

JN1610213795 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Space Channel Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Remarks by President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan at a meeting with new ambassadors at the Presidential Office in Abu Dhabi on 15 October — read by announcer, over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] I am pleased to welcome you today. The happy person is the one who has many friends and who maintains friendship with others. There is no difference in this between a Muslim, a Christian, or any worshiper of God. This is God's will. God created us to be brothers. [passage omitted]

Today, we hear many people who claim to speak on behalf of Islam. Meanwhile, these do not belong to Islam. If they want the Muslims and the world to recognize them, they should first obey the words of the Creator and his prophet. They should call for peace, and urge people to follow the path of goodness and justice. They should call on presidents and kings to be fair. Regrettably, however, they do not belong to Islam at all. They are sinners and criminals. They kill children and innocent people. Why? Does religion call on them to kill others? God forbids. They kill people, proscribe them, take their property, and claim they are Muslims. This is not accepted by Islam or any other religion. A Muslim cannot kill his brother, whether he is a Muslim or non-Muslim. The one who kills his brother must be killed unless the family of the killed — father, brother, or cousin — accepts blood money and forgives him. This is God's law. No ruler or judge can change God's law. Those criminals are destroying mosques and schools and are killing children and foreigners. This is God's wrath. If God becomes angry at His worshipers, He will send from them people to spread wickedness and malice. [passage omitted]

My main concern is to convey to you what is in my mind about Islam and its eternal message, because the West listens to the voices of sinners thinking that they represent Islam. Those extremists are far away from Islam and are filthier than dogs. Islam is innocent of all their allegations. They do not deserve mercy, because they have no mercy on others. God created people in order to make their lives easy and to allow them to live a peaceful and secure life, and not to resort to fighting and violence. Islam is the religion of forgiveness and love, the religion of tolerance and sympathy. God created man and man must obey the creator. However, man is a human being, and human beings might do right and wrong. To err is human. The holy Koran teaches us. The important thing is for the mistaken to learn from his mistakes. Some people err, and others repeat their errors.

Let us take Saddam, as an example. He erred once when he began the war against Iran. In this war, many losses were inflicted on him and on Iran. After this war, and when he prepared himself to raid Kuwait, he deposited all his planes, weapons, and ammunition with the Iranians. And this is another mistake. How could he expect an old enemy — knowing that he killed many of its soldiers and that he is holding many as prisoners — to keep the faith and give them back to him? I told one of the reporters at that time: Saddam's planes and weapons deposited in Iran will not be returned. Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati visited me afterward. I told him: You lost a great deal in the war with Saddam; however, you gained from him through trickery. He said: How? I said: You told Saddam: Do not worry. Send us your planes and weapons, and do not fear the Americans, because they say things which they do not do. You dragged Saddam like the camel until he fell in the mud. Velayati laughed without saying anything.

Russia, Europe, and America entered confrontations and wars, and then they achieved cooperation and demonstrated solidarity. Why do the Arabs not become like them? Why do we not try to turn over the past and cooperate together again? Saddam, one person, erred. However, who is paying the price now? More than 18 million Iraqis are being exposed to starvation and deprivation. How can we allow the situation to continue as it is because of the sins of one person? Eighteen million are being exposed to death. Who can accept this? Certainly, Saddam learned from his sin, and he will not repeat it. It is time for reconciliation. However, if he tries to repeat the same mistake he will lose his entity. There is no doubt that Saddam made many mistakes; however, he is a human being, and to err is human. Saddam made a mistake when he launched war against Iran, made a mistake when he sent his planes, ships, and weapons to Iran, made a mistake when he started the Gulf war, and made a mistake when he considered some people his friends and listened to them, but then discovered the opposite. There is no doubt he made many mistakes. But our brothers in Kuwait also made a mistake when they reject rapprochement with the Arab countries which seek reconciliation with Kuwait. How can a state seek to reconcile with you and you say no? These countries did not fight war on the side of Iraq against you. However, they adopted certain stands, and they are now seeking reconciliation. Who enters a war and does not seek reconciliation? Countries wage wars and confrontations, and then move toward reconciliation. This was the case in the pre-Islamic era and in the Islamic era. The history of humanity is full of stories of nations and countries that reconciled after fighting.

We believe it is time to achieve reconciliation. Lifting the sanctions on Iraq has become necessary. How can we watch more than 18 million Arabs die without making a move? The person who accepts this is neither an Arab nor human. No human accepts such pains. No human can accept seeing 18 million Arabs starving. When a human sees a person in need of something, he will sympathize with him, even if they are at odds. What would it be like to see an entire nation being exposed to siege and starvation? The Arabs cannot remain silent on this, whether the West likes it or not. We should reject injustice not only against the Arabs and Muslims, but also against all nations. [passage omitted]

President Intervenes To Rescind Death Penalty for Maid

JN1410152395 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1420 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-'Ayn, 14 Oct (WAKH) — The Islamic Judiciary Department issued a statement in Abu Dhabi today on the case of the Philippine woman Sarah Balabagan, who was convicted by an Islamic court in al-'Ayn of killing her employer, Almas Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Balushi.

The statement said that after private efforts by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, relatives of the deceased dropped their right to retribution and their demand that the woman be executed. They accepted the legal blood money that is stipulated in such cases.

Ibrahim Remarks on Referendum Implications

JN1610130795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 0758 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Impromptu remarks by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and chairman of the Higher Commission charged with supervising the referendum on the post of president, at the Hall of the Conferences Palace in Baghdad—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] O [words indistinct] brothers: This is the outcome of the referendum. You have seen it in the statement issued by the Higher Commission charged with supervising the referendum. I believe that the brother strugglers from within the ranks of our Arab and Islamic nation as well as friends throughout the world who came to attend this episode do not deem this outcome strange. This is because they have long maintained a strong spiritual relationship with Iraq. This relationship dates back to the time of Iraq's ancient civilizations, to the times of Sumer, Akkad, Babylon, and Assyria. This remained the case until the time of the great message, the great heavenly message, whose noble, enlightened, and generous principles the Iraqis in particular promoted all over the world. They have maintained a sustained relationship with Iraq. They know a great deal about the secrets which God placed in the hearts of this great people, who are one of the nation's strong pillars nurturing its jihad throughout its long history. Our glorious nation is currently pinning great and cherished hopes on their jihad, patience, steadfastness, and bountiful sacrifices—hopes of unity, liberation, and building a future that befits the status of this noble nation, which was chosen by God, as attested to in the Koranic verse [You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong] [Koranic verse], opposing falsehood and defending right. This is how our nation was born. This is why our nation was assigned the task of promoting a message to mankind on earth.

At this critical stage in our nation's history, our great people honestly, nobly, and strongly reflected the nation's wishes of upholding this message and translating it into concrete moves to the advantage of the nation and the world at large.

They know us. They know the Iraqi people and their patriotic, pan-Arab, revolutionary, and faithful leadership. They know their mujahid and faithful leader, who has presided over a peculiar experience to promote the lot of our Arab nation and to change many of the concepts taken for granted by many of the nation's sons, organizations, parties, and mujahid political forces. They are well aware of these facts. That this why they do not deem the outcome strange.

O brothers: For more than 15 years, the Iraqi people have been immensely mobilized and provoked. Their history, civilization, principles, and values have been evoked. That is why they staged a noble uprising to express this dear, cherished, and precious heritage. They have remained mobilized. Likewise, the aggression has continued to target all that the people have held dear throughout their long history.

Any Iraqi who does not say yes can only be physically and mentally ill. Every Iraqi cannot but say yes, because brothers, this yes may be understood by some, and as expressed in the Constitution and law, as a yes to a person by the name of Saddam Husayn, through which he would win the post of president of the republic. Saddam Husayn is not like this and neither is his leadership and the people [12-second break in transmission] our conflict with the evil and the aggressors has released within these people, their leadership, and their leader many secrets, which Almighty God has stored in the human being, in general, and in the Arab and Iraqi human being, in particular.

Therefore, Iraq today has become, as it has been for a long time, and from the moment we read out the statement of the referendum's results — which you have heard quite clearly — one unified entity not in the traditional political, principled, or organizational sense. It is one entity in the sense of all the details of everyday life. Saddam Husayn, the historic leader with a message, is all the people and all the people are Saddam Husayn. The people and leader Saddam Husayn are the great principles of the nation and Iraq. The principles are the Iraqi people and Saddam Husayn. Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi people, and the principles have been one unified entity throughout the march of 27 years of the age of the revolution. The principles, the march, the victories, the people, the leader, the leadership, the party, and all the details of these great people's daily life have become one solid entity. No power in this world can separate these entities from one another after they have interacted as one and have became one element, that is, the element of great Iraq [applause].

Frankly, it is not my business and I rarely speak to journalists and to television because talking to journalists involves protocols and being diplomatic; I do not know these things [applause]. During elections or referendums throughout the world, it is natural for voters to say yes or no or I will elect this person and I will not elect this one. Even a personal friend might not elect your friend because he believes that this friend is not qualified to assume this post. Therefore, he elects the other more qualified person.

Due to our own circumstances, this does not apply to us. This is a mark of identification characterizing the Arabs. If you read Arab history, you will be aware of this. This does not apply to us. Now and today, the yes and no votes have brought into focus the old noble Arab state of affairs. They have become part and parcel of the bloody conflict with evil in Iraq over the past 27 years. Now, a yes vote is tantamount to a willingness to sacrifice one's life. It is an expression of complete resignation to the one for whom we cast a yes vote. Those who cast no votes were not prompted by a realization that the leader is not fit for the post in question. Indeed, they did so because they are hostile elements who have connections with external parties. They were used and asked to cast no votes. We have not said this before, because we did not wish to confuse issues or influence the motivation, morale, and views. We have not uttered such a statement nor allowed anybody to say it before. Even our mobilized media did not mention this. Now, I am talking about it. Had somebody else been talking to you, he would not have mentioned this.

Tomorrow, God willing, comrade Tariq ['Aziz] will hold a news conference, at which you can ask him about all issues related to Iraq. He will not tell you stories such as the ones that I will be telling you. [laughter and applause]

To us, a yes vote is tantamount to complete resignation in terms of views, souls, blood, efforts, and jihad. Those who cast a yes vote are making such a pledge. This is our pledge of allegiance. This is the way the Arabs pledged allegiance. Whenever an Arab gives a pledge of allegiance using words, he keeps his word. There is a historical anecdote that could be helpful in this regard, even though I am not aware of whether or not it is true. Nonetheless, it provides a lesson from Arab history. It was reported that while he was on his deathbed, caliph Mu'awiyah [Bin-Abi-Sufyan, Umayyad caliph], may he obtain God's satisfaction, uttered the following instructions to his son Yazid: When I am laid to rest, let 'Amr Bin-al-'As [a political figure in the Umayyad period] put me in my tomb. May they all obtain God's satisfaction. When he puts me in the tomb and almost gets the job done, do not allow him to rise from the tomb. Draw your sword against him and ask him for a pledge of allegiance, for fear he might rebel against you. This is because if he gives you his word of honor, if he gives you a pledge of allegiance, even if this were to be under the shadow of the sword, he will not betray you. This is because he has given you his word of honor. This Arab anecdote has been refined and epitomized in the Iraqis. For those who cast a yes vote, they are aware of the profound implications of this vote, which will influence all aspects of life. Hence, to safeguard Iraq's honor, sovereignty, survival, independence, future, freedom, prosperity, and effectiveness within the context of the Arab nation, the Iraqis were bound to cast a yes vote. It is impossible for any Iraqi not to cast a yes vote for all these values and principles.

Saddam is a leader. A yes vote was cast for him, because he epitomizes all these values. To Iraqis, he stands for all these values. We, Iraqis, do not have anything static. The circumstances have dictated this. The leader's innate traits, coupled with the experience and expertise he has acquired throughout 40 years of jihad, have rendered him a great symbol for all the values cherished by Iraq, for all the components and prerequisites of the Iraqi entity. It follows from this that there can be no survival, sovereignty, pride, honor, dignity, independence, wellbeing, and even bread without Saddam Husayn [applause]. I am not saying this because I love Saddam Husayn, because my leader is Saddam Husayn, because I am his deputy, or because I am part of the ruling family. I am saying this because the symbol stands for the whole of Iraq in terms of individuals, groups, people, history, and life. Hence, it is only natural, traditional, and very normal for all Iraqis to say yes to Saddam Husayn. You have seen that this was reflected in the outcome of the referendum.

Based on my political experience, I would like to tell you that under different circumstances and with a leader other than Saddam Husayn, the situation could have been completely different. It could have been similar to the situation in other countries, although the Iraqis are bound to surpass others. This is because the Iraqis are known for their strong championship of principles. They are well-known for their strong adherence to principles and for their championship of fairness and principles. When they say no, their no is vehement, and so is their yes. This is the way the Iraqis are [applause]. They could have been 10 or 15 percent ahead of others. If an election win in England is obtained with a 53 percent of the vote, it would have required a 63 percent of the vote in Iraq. If an election win in the United States is obtained with a 60 percent of the vote, it would have required 67 or 70 percent of the vote in Iraq. Under different circumstances, this could have been the case. But given the current state of affairs, the outcome could not have been any different. I am the chairman of the commission charged with the referendum.

The elections came within their proper context; within the framework of the general policy. After you came to Iraq, you heard many experts speak through the media on the democratic side of Iraq's policy and revolution. The decision was made by the president leader and the command to start developing the democratic process a long time ago. The democratic process was born with the revolution. I draw your attention to the statement which stresses the need to move from revolutionary legitimacy that is saturated with democracy since the 17-30 July Revolution. On the first day of the revolution, the first thing the command thought of on 30 July was to establish a front — the National Progressive and Patriotic Front [NPPF]. The front was actually established and comprised parties which you know. The front operated with complete freedom and independence. The NPPF still exists in Iraq. We have representatives from the Front right here, an official from the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

In its essence, democracy seeks to give the citizen the opportunity to have a say on basic things in life. All this existed from the very first day of the revolution. In addition to revolutionary legitimacy, we also have all the active labor groups organized within trade unions and popular organizations which exercise their role and build their structures on the basis of the best meanings of democracy.

Our party, the leading party, had the right to nominate its own lists to the elections in these organizations — the labor trade union, the peasants union, the teachers union and the engineers union. The president refused this. Since the 1986 elections, the president said the rights of the party with respect to the popular and democratic elections to the popular organizations shall be canceled, and the party members will run as individuals as all the others and not as Ba'th party members. This is so because the militant Ba'thist should win in the elections on the basis of his record in terms of his struggle and the position he enjoys in the militant, professional, or scientific bodies. He will be elected if he deserves to be elected. Otherwise, he will not win. He should not win on the basis of his party membership. Let him compete with the other independent candidates. [applause]

The National Assembly had three terms in office. The last term was an important one and we were unable to hold elections for this assembly in view of the unjust siege and as a result of this frenzied enmity to the Iraqi people. I do not know if anyone of you came for the elections to the latest term in office of the National Assembly. We extended invitations, open invitations to the same people we invited now; the media men, parliamentarians, political party figures and national figures which are well known in their countries. They came and followed up the elections process. I was the head of the elections committee. That year, we set as our objective to ensure that there will be democratic elections. We gave this objective more importance than the results of the elections themselves. The most important result was to have democratic elections, and the less important result is that the people would elect patriotic and good people, including the Ba'thists. The objective of the elections was not to bring in elected members whom the Ba'th Party wants but to apply democracy.

We had the same concern during this referendum and this was our objective. At the beginning of the referendum, we said that this referendum falls within the framework of our democratic march. We have been waiting since 1982 and not since the President leader was given a pledge of alliance, for opportunities. Such an opportunity presented itself in 1990. We prepared the constitution in 1990. The Revolution Command Council discussed and approved it. The National Assembly discussed and approved it too. We submitted it for discussion by the people, after which we will hold a referendum on it. After the constitution is passed, elections and not a referendum will be held on the post of the president of the republic.

The aggression, the aggression of the Mother of Battles, the 30-state aggression took place, and the democratic experience was postponed.

We are not doing this to test the Iraqis or ourselves. It is a well known fact. Every Iraqi knows that if a referendum is held on the post of president of the republic or elections are held on this post and Saddam Husayn nominates himself, then all the Iraqis will elect him. This is something known by the Iraqi people [applause] and is also somewhat known by the brothers and the friends. But, this fact is not known by others.

Therefore, the hostile forces managed to practice deception, fabricate lies, and distort facts. They expanded the circle of hostility with the aim of practicing deception, lying, and claiming that the Iraqi people do not want the leadership and the leader. You have seen this Iraqi people with your own eyes. We wanted to bolster the objective of this referendum, which is part of the democratic march that we started. We seek to develop and further the democratic march, and make it include all aspects of life. Other objectives of this march include strengthening the confidence of the good in their great country, people, and leadership, making the misled people understand the fact as it is, and beleaguering the hostile, the aggressors, the doubters, and the deceivers.

Humanity and human values adhered to in Iraq, Europe, America, Russia, and elsewhere stipulate that the individual should admit reality to himself, as we said last night. The individual should not lie to himself. He can lie to others. For example, the U.S. intelligence, having witnessed this fact, should admit it and say they have saw it for themselves. They should admit that the people [the Iraqis] allowed them to see it freely, and that all their requests were met. They should relay this fact to their agencies and governments. However, if they want hostility to persist, they will lie to others, and not to themselves. This is enough for us. It is enough for us that the enemies knew deep inside that the reality on which they build their conclusions is wrong, and that the reality lies elsewhere. The reality is what Saddam Husayn and his leadership and people say. That is the reality.

We have great hope that the brothers who came to this place and to Iraq, and lived up to their responsibility as patriotic people, persons with a sense of humanity, and as revolutionary, patriotic, and humanitarian parties, which seek to make use of the experiment, newsmen entrusted with a media mission — the honor and essence of the media mission is to relay the truth as it is — will respond to their principles each according to his position and role, whether is is a media man, party member, politician, or parliamentary. All should remember their principles and values for which they work and adhere to them by speaking the truth. When we make sure that the truth was relayed to the conscience, the minds, and hearts, we do not care about those who fabricate lies and those who distort facts. The truthful and goodly word is like a goodly tree, as God says, whose root is firmly fixed, and its branches reach to the heavens. It brings forth its fruit at all times, by the leave of its Lord [Holy Koran]. God is stronger than America, Iraq, Russia, and the whole world. By the leave of its Lord, the rightful word bears its fruit. May God bless you. I thank you very much.

INA Carries Breakdown of Votes in Governorates

JN1610164695

[Editorial Report] Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1000 GMT on 16 October carries a report on the final results of the presidency referendum in Iraq. A breakdown of votes in the Iraqi governorates is as follows:

Baghdad Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	2,487,274
No. of correct ballots:	2,482,865
No. of void ballots:	4,409
No. of "Yes" ballots:	2,480,402
No. of "No" ballots:	Not given
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	99.90
Ninawa Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	885,757
Baghdad Governorate:	
No. of correct ballots:	885,694
No. of void ballots:	63
No. of "Yes" ballots:	885,665
No. of "No" ballots:	None
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	100
Al-Basrah Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	670,308
No. of correct ballots:	670,189
No. of void ballots:	119
No. of "Yes" ballots:	670,171
No. of "No" ballots:	Not given
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	100 [as received]
Karbala' Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	270,867
No. of correct ballots:	270,867
No. of void ballots:	None
No. of "Yes" ballots:	270,867
No. of "No" ballots:	None
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	100
Babil Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	489,989
No. of correct ballots:	489,850
No. of void ballots:	139
No. of "Yes" ballots:	489,800
No. of "No" ballots:	Not given
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	99.9
Diyala Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	528,955
No. of correct ballots:	528,731
No. of void ballots:	224
No. of "Yes" ballots:	528,623
No. of "No" ballots:	Not given
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	99.98
Dhi Qar Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	477,555
No. of correct ballots:	477,555

Baghdad Governorate:	
No. of void ballots:	None
No. of "Yes" ballots:	477,555
No. of "No" ballots:	None
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	100
Al-Anbar Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	444,145
No. of correct ballots:	443,740
No. of void ballots:	405
No. of "Yes" ballots:	443,357
No. of "No" ballots:	Not given
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	99.9
Salah-al-Din Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	362,903
No. of correct ballots:	362,775
No. of void ballots:	128
No. of "Yes" ballots:	362,775
No. of "No" ballots:	None
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	100
Al-Najaf Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	335,637
No. of correct ballots:	335,568
No. of void ballots:	69
No. of "Yes" ballots:	335,568
No. of "No" ballots:	None
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	100
Al-Ta'mim Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	385,209
No. of correct ballots:	385,013
No. of void ballots:	196
No. of "Yes" ballots:	385,013
No. of "No" ballots:	None
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	100
Wasit Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	332,432
No. of correct ballots:	332,419
No. of void ballots:	13
Baghdad Governorate:	
No. of "Yes" ballots:	332,418
No. of "No" ballots:	Not given
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	100 [as received]
Al-Qadisiyah Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	278,876
No. of correct ballots:	278,876
No. of void ballots:	None
No. of "Yes" ballots:	278,876
No. of "No" ballots:	None
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	100
Maysan Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	246,605
No. of correct ballots:	246,605
No. of void ballots:	None
No. of "Yes" ballots.	246,605
No. of "No" ballots:	None
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	100
Al-Muthanna Governorate:	
No. of votes cast:	161,048
No. of correct ballots:	161,005
No. of void ballots:	43
No. of "Yes" ballots:	161,005
No. of "No" ballots:	None
Percentage of "Yes" ballots:	100

The INA report adds that the number of eligible voters is 8,402,321, the number of those who said "Yes" in the election is 8,348,700, and the total number of people who voted was 8,357,560.

Tribal Leaders, Citizens Congratulate Saddam

JN1610151495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic carries at 1400 GMT on 16 October an unscheduled 20-minute announcer-read report on cables sent by Iraqi officials, tribal leaders, and Arab citizens to President Saddam Husayn congratulating him on his victory in the public referendum and renewing allegiance to him. The report names the senders of the cables and reads their cables. The first cable is sent by Iraqi Vice President 'Izzat Ibrahim. In his cable, Ibrahim highly praises Saddam Husayn's traits and role in serving Iraq. Ibrahim adds that the results of the referendum reflect the awareness and commitment of the Iraqis.

The second cable is sent by Dr. Qasim Sallam, member of the regional command and secretary of the Yemen Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Sallam expresses his congratulations to Saddam Husayn on winning the referendum. Sallam commends Saddam, describing him as a hero and symbol of the Arab nation.

The third cable is sent by 'Aziz Salih al-Numan, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the Maysan and Wasit organizations of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. 'Aziz al-Numan also congratulates Saddam Husayn on victory.

Senders of the rest of the cables include Samir al-Najm, member of the Iraq Command; Hasan Ibrahim, head of the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of the Workers of Palestine-the Iraq Branch; the chief of the General Federation of Palestinian Workers-the Iraq Branch; chiefs of tribes; Arab citizens; and Iraqi and Arab unions and organizations. The senders congratulate Saddam Husayn on winning the elections and renew their allegiance to him.

'Massive Demonstrations' Celebrate Saddam Victory

*JN1610153595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1500 GMT 16 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA) — No sooner was President Saddam Husayn declared winner of the public referendum than massive demonstrations began in Baghdad and the governorates. The masses expressed their happiness on this glorious day of great loyalty from the genuine Iraqi people to their unmatched leader Saddam Husayn.

The Iraqi people's celebrations embody their love for their leader, their support for Saddam Husayn's leadership, and their pledge to pursue the march of progress and development to build a bright, prosperous future. The celebrations also reflect a state of coalescence and oneness between the leader and his people. This was embodied in the results of the public referendum, with all its implications for national credibility and sublime values.

In their marches and rallies, the citizens chanted songs in praise of the leader and the homeland united by the word Yes to leader Saddam Husayn and Yes to a strong, dignified Iraq.

Referendum 'Turning Point' in National History

*JN1610182095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1030 GMT 16 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA) — Two Iraqi newspapers today hailed the day of the referendum on the post of president of the Republic of Iraq. They described the referendum as a historic one in which the Iraqis renewed their confidence in President Saddam Husayn. The newspapers AL-'IRAQ and AL-QADISIYAH said in their editorials that the whole world has become fully aware that the Iraqi people support President Saddam Husayn because he is the symbol of their national unity, dignity, and pride.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ says the referendum day, on which the Iraqis said yes to President Saddam Husayn, was a new historic turning point in the life of Iraq and its forthcoming march.

In its editorial today, the newspaper says the popular referendum on the post of the president of the Republic of Iraq reiterated the Iraqis' love for President Saddam Husayn, their pride in his leadership, and their unqualified optimism about the future.

The newspaper states that the Iraqi people, including the elderly, children, and women, said yes to Saddam Husayn — a yes that is as great as Iraq and its history — because they discovered with their noble feelings that Saddam Husayn is the symbol of national pride and pan-Arab development and is the country's impenetable bulwark. The paper derides the hostile fabrications that seek to undermine Iraq and its people. It adds: The fact that the world admired the participation of all the Iraqis in the referendum on the post of the republic's president is proof that Iraq is the country of civilizations and a pioneer of development and progress.

The paper notes: On the referendum day, the Iraqi people signed the most magnificent charter of loyalty to and pride in President Saddam Husayn. They stressed that unified Iraq and its national unity, sovereignty, and dignity will be protected only by Saddam Husayn. Only Saddam Husayn can keep Iraq secure from the hands of oppressors and conspirators big and small.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ stresses that Iraq's enemies and their frivolous wagers, wicked schemes, determination to inflict harm on the Iraqi people, and perpetuation of the blockade war have failed to affect the mutual confidence between President Saddam Husayn and his honest people.

Concluding its editorial, AL-'IRAQ says: Iraq's enemies and their allies should admit and acknowledge that Iraq will accept no one other than Saddam Husayn as president of its 20 million people. It asserts that Washington should give up its hackneyed concepts, arrogance, and obstinacy in fighting the Iraqi people with a brutality that is unprecedented in history.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says the referendum day was a unique celebration in which the Iraqis made a decisive choice by consolidating their solidarity with President Saddam Husayn.

The paper says that casting votes in favor of President Saddam Husayn is a forgone conclusion, because it expresses the faith of the Iraqi people in the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

It asserts that the referendum revealed the strength of the Iraqis' will, their creative capabilities for facing challenges, and determination to overcome hardships and break the unjust embargo.

Saddam's 'Landslide' Hailed as 'Slap' to Enemies

JN1710084795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0730 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA) — Iraqi newspapers today congratulate the people of Iraq, along with all the good in the Arab nation, as well as all Muslims, who said at the top of their voice, with love and loyalty, the strongest Yes to President Saddam Husayn to remain president of the Republic of Iraq for another seven years.

In articles and analyses, AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-QADISIYAH, AL-THAWRAH, AL-'IRAQ, and BABIL assert that the feelings of the Iraqis blended with their efforts, jihad, and enthusiasm to renew their allegiance to President Saddam Husayn as a leader of Iraq. The president demonstrated strong determination and resolve in confronting the injustice of the evildoers, the paper says.

AL-QADISIYAH says President Saddam Husayn's victory in the public referendum is a genuine example of the deep relationship between the Iraqi people and their leadership. The landslide scored by the president reflects the genuine traits of Iraq's people and revolution in the broadest democratic exercise under the difficult circumstances which Iraq and its people are going through.

The paper adds that President Saddam Husayn's victory is a victory for the people and the nation. It also marks the success of a fine democratic experiment, embraced by Iraq since the dawn of its revolution.

The newspaper criticizes the allegations and fabrications that are targeted against Iraq's democratic experiment and march, characterizing them as a hollow outcome of the efforts of the masters of the capitalist West. Those are the enemies of Iraq and they include the tyrants, their allies and assistants.

The newspaper points out that the advocates of false democracy have been dumbfounded as a result of the strong slap by a besieged, patient Iraq. Iraq carried out a fine democratic exercise unfamiliar to the aggressors under the harsh circumstances of the unjust blockade. [passage omitted]

BABIL says the public referendum is a strong slap to hostile propaganda and the efforts to distort the relationship between the Iraqi people and their leadership.

The outcome of the referendum is an historic endorsement by the Iraqi people of President Saddam Husayn's policy, the Iraqi leadership, and the way it handled the crisis of the armed aggression against Iraq and the unjust blockade against its people.

The newspaper adds that the referendum is a strong slap against the anti-Iraq media campaigns that have been going on for more than six years to justify maintaining the blockade using the pretext that the blockade is targeted against the government rather than the people. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Citizens To 'Resist Enemy Schemes'

JN1410135195 Baghdad INA in English
1229 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct, 14, INA — An Iraqi daily has warned that Iraqis will resist enemy schemes at all cost and any price because they know that alternatives to their free choice and independence would be plunder, disintegration and abject poverty.

In its editorial today, the daily, BAGHDAD OBSERVER said that Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn will remain impregnable to marauders. Iraq has been targeted for its principled pan-Arab attitudes and for the fact that it is among the few Arab countries that so far refused to be drawn to capitulation.

President Saddam Husayn could have chosen the easiest option, that is the option of most Arab rulers who have surrendered to the will of foreign powers under the disguise of moderation.

But being a patriotic and revolutionary leader, his principles cannot allow him to tread the road of treason and submission as other Arab rulers have done. Under his leadership, Iraqi and Arab masses will continue their struggle until all foreign designs are smashed.

The U.S. is trying to weaken Iraq to attain two objectives. The first one is to tip once again the balance of power between the Arabs and Israel that has been redressed thanks to the endeavors of President Saddam

Husayn who engineered all Iraqi industrial projects and prepared the qualified Iraqi experts and specialists to carry out these projects.

The second U.S. objective is a political one. By imposing on Iraq the most inhumane and unprecedented economic embargo, the U.S. is trying to hamper Iraq's attempts to acquire technology and thus to devise its own independent policy.

The villains who are insisting on the continuation of the embargo know very well that it is severely harming the weak segments of Iraqi society, namely the poor, the sick, the children and the elderly.

Yet, they insist that the sanctions must remain in place in the hope that by so doing they could create dissension within the ranks of Iraqi society, but Iraqis are fully aware of these designs are determined to foil all enemy schemes at any cost. This attitude of Iraq must be realized by those who harbor the illusion of being able to impose another model on Iraq by starving its people.

Those who use the weapon of economic sanctions have certainly no humane sense, no decency, no moral ethics, yet they claim that they care for human rights, democracy and freedom of other nations.

The fact is that they want to reverse the course of history 50 years back to the state of colonialism to exploit the riches of the small nations; and since Iraq is the richest country in terms of oil reserves, they are sparing no effort to bring about a political change in the country with the aim of installing a puppet regime that would be prepared to receive orders from abroad as to the size of the army that is allowed by them, the kind of industry allowed in the country and the crops to be grown that would not compete with their products.

In the name of the so-called new world order, that is a world under U.S. hegemony, they are using the United Nations as a willing tool to implement their vicious plans against the smaller nations.

Being aware of their vicious designs, Iraqis will resist enemy schemes at all cost and any price because they know that the alternative to their free choice and independence would be plunder, disintegration, abject poverty, and such phenomena as prostitution and drug trafficking that are prevalent in nations under U.S. political sphere of influence would prevail in Iraq if it were to compromise over its national interests [sentence as received].

Russia's Zhirinovskiy in Baghdad for Referendum

Says Referendum 'Challenge' to U.S.

JN1510152795 Baghdad INA in English
1130 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct 15 (INA)—Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party in Russia, confirmed that the referendum is a democratic experience which represents the ambitions and aspirations of the Iraqi people, who have been living a democratic life under the leadership of president Saddam Husayn.

AL-QADISIYAH quoted Zhirinovskiy as saying that the peoples of the world are bound to respect the referendum results, in other words lifting the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people.

The referendum came as a deterrent answer to the Western allegations and the world has to respect the Iraqis opinion which embodies the people's love and full confidence towards their leadership, he added.

He pointed out that fulfilling a referendum during the embargo circumstances is a challenge to the U.S. Administration and its Western agents .

Meets With Saddam

JN1510162495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1536 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia. Zhirinovskiy asserted that Russian public opinion and the Russian Parliament, in particular, strongly call for lifting the unjust blockade on Iraq, adding that this blockade is greatly harming Russian public interests.

The president expressed his appreciation for the stand of the Russian Parliament and the friendly Russian people, as well as the stand of the Liberal Democratic Party, which sympathizes with Iraq's just cause.

His excellency reiterated Iraq's honest desire to develop relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and Russia to serve the national interests of both friendly countries and to reinforce the opportunity of achieving peace and justice in the international community.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz attended the meeting.

Discusses Relations With Tariq 'Aziz

NC1510193695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1838 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the foreign relations office in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], today received Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, and his accompanying delegation. The Russian delegation is currently visiting Baghdad on the occasion of the general popular referendum.

The two sides discussed relations between the ASBP and the Russian liberal party and ways to promote bilateral relations for the sake of serving the interests of the two countries and the two friendly peoples. The deputy prime minister thanked Zhirinovskiy and his delegation for accepting the invitation to attend the general popular referendum and for his brave calls to lift the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

Kuwaiti POW's Reportedly Moved to New Prison

NC1410162595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The weekly AL-ITTIHAD, mouthpiece of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said today it obtained confirmed information that Iraq is holding Kuwaiti prisoners. It said the 'Aflaqite authorities early this month transferred a number of these prisoners from al-Ramadi camp to [name indistinct] camp, about 15 km from Karkuk. According to reports, the prisoners were then moved to another unknown destination under the supervision of the Special Security Agency, run by the dictator's son Qusayy Saddam Husayn.

Saddam Adviser on 'Important Mission' to Amman

MM1310114295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by 'Imad al-Furayh: "Reports of Important Mission Being Conducted By Sa'dun Hammadi in Jordan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — There have been speculations in Amman and London over an urgent mission being conducted in Amman by Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, former Iraqi prime minister and economic adviser to President Saddam Husayn. Several sources have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Hammadi arrived secretly in the Jordanian capital a few days ago, and it is not known whether he has left Amman.

The speculation is that Hammadi is on a mission whose nature is not clear. It is said to be associated with the Amman economic summit and the formation of a new Iraqi government after the referendum on Saddam's presidency next Sunday.

Dr. Hammadi's name emerged recently in Baghdad as the person designated to make contacts to form a new Iraqi government in the wake of the defection to Jordan of General Husayn Kamil, one of the regime's pillars. Despite the pause in his contacts, Hammadi's designation still stands, as he will continue this task seriously after the referendum, which will determine the extension of Saddam Husayn's term for seven years.

The speculation emanated from elements close to Hammadi himself and from informed sources in London and Amman. It has also been said that Hammadi is on a private visit to see his wife, of Palestinian origin, who is in the Jordanian capital.

The sources said that Hammadi is designated by President Saddam Husayn to hold unofficial meetings with authoritative Jordanian figures to urge the Jordanian Government to invite Iraq to the Amman economic summit. If he manages to do that [secure an invitation], Hammadi himself will represent Iraq at the summit, on the grounds that he is the economic adviser to the Iraqi president.

Hammadi used to be described as the architect of the Iraqi economy before his dismissal and appointment as economic adviser at the presidency.

Iraq — without declaring it — is seeking to reserve a seat at the summit in question, to which it has not been invited because of the international sanctions imposed on it.

The source pointed out that Dr. Hammadi is still expected to form a government of "technocrats" after the referendum. It is likely that Hammadi is making contacts with Iraqis who have been in Amman for a long time with a view to exploring the possibility of their participation in a new government. And also to discuss the fate of the current Iraqi Government, headed by Saddam Husayn himself, in the wake of the defection to Jordan of Husayn Kamil, who held the posts of industry minister and director of the Military Industrialization Organization.

It is not clear whether Dr. Hammadi has left Amman or whether he is still there in the hope of attending the Amman economic summit by any means.

Dinar 'Plummets' Against Dollar on Black Market

NC1210121395 Paris AFP in English 1200 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAGHDAD, Oct 12 (AFP) — The Iraqi dinar has plummeted on the Baghdad black market in the past two days, changing hands at 2,500 to the dollar on Thursday [12 October] compared with 2,000 last week, dealers said.

The official rate is 600 dinars to the dollar.

The fall in the value of the dinar came as the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq and the International Atomic Energy Agency produced two highly critical reports ensuring economic sanctions on the country will stay in force.

Before the sanctions were imposed in August 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, the dinar was valued at 3.2 dollars.

Contacts Held To Establish New Opposition Front

NC1310205995 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
11 Oct 95 p 9

[Report by 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Salam in London]

[FBIS Translated Text] An independent Iraqi opposition figure has stated that contacts are now under way between the Iraqi opposition groups in London to form a new political front that will represent the Iraqi opposition forces who do not agree with the policies of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC], the official spokesman of the Iraqi opposition.

The Iraqi opposition figure, who refused to divulge his name, told AL-AHRAM that these groups met in London two days ago under Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, former member of the UINC Executive Committee. They discussed a plan to unite the Iraqi opposition forces in a new front that will compete with the UINC. He added that these groups believe that the UINC has been marginalized by the current actions to set out Iraq's future and its members have now limited themselves to the issuance of statements without taking concrete action. He said that the leaders of the new front led by Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, the prominent Shiite man of religion, are seeking to bypass the UINC's role and present a new plan that will underline the opposition's role in any new change that will take place in Iraq.

But, the opposition figure added, there is one factor that reduces the influence of the new front which is expected to be formed soon, namely the absence of two major Iraqi parties: the Islamic al-Da'wah Party and the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. He said that these opposition groups also lack a clear idea of what should be done with regard to Iraq and whether the front will merely be a facade for issuing statements or if it will be loyal to some other country.

He noted that a Syrian initiative had emerged recently through Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's meetings with some Iraqi opposition figures in Damascus. He added that Syria is trying to establish a revolutionary command for the Iraqi opposition abroad capable of taking over power in Iraq in future.

KDP Forces Capture PKK Bases in Dahuk, Kill 150

LD1410185995 Tehran IRNA in English
1543 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Oct. 14, IRNA — Some 150 members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) of Turkey were killed on Friday [13 October] after clashes with Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) forces, the KDP radio monitored here reported Saturday.

According to the radio the clashes occured in Dahuk Province of Iraq resulting in the capture of many PKK-manned bases and liberation of a vast part under their occupation. The radio also said that during the fightings several heavy and tens of light weapons as well as three large ammunition depots were seized by the KDP forces.

Communique on IDF Freedom of Action in Lebanon

TA1710112895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Communique issued immediately after 17 October cabinet meeting; read by Secretary Shmu'el Hollander]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government, which met in its capacity as the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs, was briefed by security elements on the events in which IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed and wounded and on the situation in south Lebanon.

The government shares the bereaved families' grief and sends its wishes of condolences to the wounded.

The government voices its esteem for the IDF, which labors day and night in the defense of the residents of northern Israel, and for the SLA [South Lebanese Army], which defends the residents of southern Lebanon. The government will allow them the required freedom of action in their war against Hizballah.

The government and the security forces will pursue their policy of ensuring security in the Galilee, at the same time learning the lessons of the events as recommended by the IDF.

The government denounces the Iranian Government, which is directly assisting the Hizballah terrorists, and condemns the Syrian Government, which can, but does not, prevent and is even backing that organization's terrorist activities.

Minister Opposes Changing Strategy in Lebanon

TA1710064395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says there is no need to alter the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] strategy in south Lebanon. Ben-Eli'ezer believes the IDF activity in Lebanon is sound and conforms with rules we have adopted, because the IDF cannot sow death or wage a guerrilla war, which are methods used by the other side.

Minister Ben-Eli'ezer made these remarks on Qol Yisra'el this morning.

West Bank, Gaza Closure 'Partially' Lifted

TA1710061795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The closure on the West Bank and Gaza is being partially eased this morning. Residents of Gaza 35 years and older will be allowed to enter Israel, while those 30 years and older from the West Bank will be allowed in. The closure was imposed just before Rosh Hashanah [celebrated on 25 September].

Likud: PLO-Hamas Aim for 'Eradication' of Nation

TA1410172095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud has attacked the emerging agreement between the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Zalman Shoval, director of Likud foreign relations, says the PLO- Hamas agreement, which is being forged with Israeli assistance, does not aim to further peace, but rather to deepen and entrench the existing alliance between the two organizations.

Shoval asserts that the agreement is designed to promote the two organizations' common strategic goal — the exploitation of the new conditions created by the Oslo accords for the phased eradication of the State of Israel. This report was filed by our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar.

Iranian Plane Hijacker Indicted

TA1710101795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Oct 95 p 12

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Iranian flight attendant who hijacked a plane that landed at 'Uvda Air Force Base in the South last month was charged with air piracy in Beersheba District Court on Sunday.

Reza Jabari, 29, was indicted in the presence of an International Red Cross representative, who came to ensure that international law was being followed. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Comments on Iraq, Arab Affairs

MS1710093795 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 17 Oct 95 p 18

[Report on interview with King Husayn by David Gardner and Julian Ozanne in Amman on 16 October; "Court Of The Chameleon"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] King Husayn of Jordan is showing an inclination to lead which is discomfiting his more powerful Arab neighbours. Long viewed by his rivals and peers in the Middle East as a political chameleon, the King — at the head of a buffer state that has been buffeted since its birth — is now prescribing a possible future for Saddam Husayn's Iraq.

And, just as irritating to Arab dictators and absolute monarchs, he is offering the democratic experience of Jordan as a model for the region. He is courteous to a fault, as ever; but he has stopped mincing words.

In an interview yesterday at the royal palace in Amman, he dismissed Sunday's referendum in Iraq as a "dangerous farce" which could accelerate the disintegration of the country between the Kurdish north, the Shi'ite Muslim south, and a centre under Saddam's Sunni Muslim Tikriti clan.

"Unfortunately in our region we have seen many examples of 99 point something per cent" results at the polls, King Husayn said, referring to the official Iraqi outcome of a 99.96 per cent endorsement of Saddam's presidency. But he warned of a "bloodbath" and "a disaster that would affect the entire region" if Iraqis continued to be "strangled from without" by UN sanctions and "oppressed from within" by the Saddam regime.

Since August's defections to Amman of two of Saddam's sons-in-law and senior henchmen, King Husayn has been putting the finishing touches to his repositioning of Jordan on the international stage — a process begun with the 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Reviled during the 1990-91 Gulf war by the West and its Arab allies for Jordan's ambivalence towards the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the King is now feted in western capitals. To the annoyance of Egypt and Syria, he is even more assiduously courted as a regional powerbroker following the Iraqi defections and his immediate call thereafter for political change in Iraq.

He said the arrival of August's "unexpected guests" was "the critical moment" when the extent of Iraq's internal decomposition became clear to him. But yesterday he also prescribed some solutions. "I have the conviction that what we need in Iraq most is for us to get credible representatives of the three major components of Iraq's people," he said, "(to get them) somewhere to sit together and work out a national reconciliation between themselves, and to remove this spectre of a bloodbath all Iraqis are afraid of." The outcome of such an exercise, he believes, should be new constitutional arrangements, in which "a federated Iraq might be the answer" to fears of an Iraqi break-up.

These fears, along with suspicions that Jordan's Hashemite royal family might be angling to regain the Iraqi throne lost to the Ba'ath party in a bloody coup in 1958, swept through the region after August's defections. The Syrian and Iranian regimes, bitter foes of Baghdad, suddenly decided that Saddam and the status quo were preferable to a potentially dangerous disintegration of Iraq.

King Husayn, once second in line to the Iraqi throne, acknowledged that his ideas were meeting resistance in the Middle East. "There is not much evidence of support in the region so far," but "a lot of people are listening," he said. However, he smiled at the suggestion that the Hashemites might want to expand their influence. He stated flatly: "I gave all that up."

Pragmatic policies are a hallmark of the British-educated monarch, who in 43 years on the throne has survived attempted coups and assassinations, three Arab-Israeli wars and the Gulf crisis, as well as a Nasirist rebellion and a civil war with Palestinians.

Uneasy lies the Head was an inevitable title for his autobiography, but it is a head — as the historian Kamal Salibi observes — which readily calculates "assets and liabilities".

The King rebuffs suggestions that he broke Arab ranks by signing a peace deal with Israel. Egypt had gone before (in 1979), but most importantly, "our Palestinian brothers" had gone ahead with the 1993 Oslo accord with the Jewish state. "We have our hopes and future to look after," he said. "Jordan will never be a card in anybody's hand to play; Jordan belongs to the Jordanians."

Syria, which wants its Golan Heights restored in exchange for peace, and Lebanon, under Syrian domination and seeking the return of its Israeli-occupied southern territory, have made little headway with the Israelis because of a Syrian insistence on US mediation rather than face-to-face talks, a policy implicitly criticised by King Husayn. "When we chose to move," he said, "the way forward was direct negotiations, and direct negotiations at the highest levels."

Yet in his determination to lead, on peace with Israel or on Iraq, the King has to calculate finely how far he can move ahead of his subjects — a majority of whom are of Palestinian origin. "I belong firmly in the peace camp," he declared, but warns that the stuttering peace process is "a race, between those who believe in life and stability (and) the prisoners of the past with all its horrors".

In this context, "one of the greatest weaknesses of the Arab world is the absence of pluralism, democracy and human rights," he argued. He offered Jordan's restoration of democracy from 1989 "as an example that works" and one that should be a model for the region. All his neighbours (except Kuwait) reject Jordan's inclusion of Islamic fundamentalists such as the Moslem Brotherhood into the parliament and (briefly) the cabinet as playing with fire.

Unlike some of his advisers, he claimed he was not conscious of taking a risk. He signed up all forces, including the Islamists, to a new constitutional consensus before the 1989 elections. The Islamists did well but later dropped in popularity, partly because of changed voting rules.

The King is more than happy with the outcome. "The people of Jordan are far more mature than some of the people involved in politics," he said. "It has taken a long time in this country to come to the point where we believe in ourselves and believe that Jordan has something to say."

Prime Minister Speaks on Developing Arab Ties

JN1710104995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (Petra)—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir said on Monday [16 October] Jordan was keen to enhance relations with Arab countries in all fields.

Chairing a meeting of the Higher National Economic Committee for International Negotiations, al-Sharif Zayd said: "We are part of this nation and share one history, higher pan-Arab interests and one future."

The prime minister underlined the importance of openness to the world through regional and international cooperation. "The cooperation that we accept is that which guarantees our oneness with our nation and the Arab body," he said.

Al-Sharif Zayd said Jordan should adhere to its priorities and goals in any matter in its talks with other parties. He also said coordination among the various national institutions should be raised to the highest levels.

The committee, which includes Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al- Rawabidah, the ministers of finance, transport, industry and trade, water and irrigation and planning as well as the planning secretary at the Ministry of Planning discussed several issues, mainly Jordanian preparations to take part in the Barcelona conference next month and an assessment of Jordan's performance in its negotiations with the European Union (EU) on a partnership agreement as well as preparations to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

In addition, the committee discussed issues related to regional finance institutions expected to be founded at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), summit which will be held in Amman later this month.

Participants in the meeting decided to set up a higher steering committee headed by al-Sharif Zayd. It includes ministers and representatives of the concerned government departments and the private sector to draft policies on the Jordan-EU partnership agreement and Jordan's entry to GATT.

'Militant' Arrested for 'Slander' Against King

JN1710110895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—A Muslim militant leader has been arrested on charges of slander against His Majesty King Husayn, the Associated press reported yesterday quoting family and judicial sources.

'Ata Abu al-Rishtah, 51, a spokesman for the Hizb al-Tahrir, or Liberation Party, was detained Saturday in his office in Ruseifa, 27 kilometres south-east of Amman.

"Police arrested him in broad daylight and we haven't been able to find out where he is and what the charges against him are," the AP quoted Mr. Abu al-Rishtah's wife, who declined to give her name in line with Muslim custom, as saying.

A judicial source, who insisted on anonymity, said Mr. Abu al-Rishtah admitted during interrogation that he had criticised the King and rebuked the monarch again in an interview with the Arab language AL-HIWAR weekly, the AP report said.

"Abu al-Rishtah has been charged with belonging to an illegal organisation and slandering His Majesty the King," the judicial source said. Slander against the Royal family is a violation of the law and is punishable by up to three years' imprisonment.

Mr. Abu Rishteh has frequently been arrested over the last 10 years allegedly for militant activities and affiliation with Hizb al-Tahrir, a predominantly Palestinian group formed in the West Bank in the 1950s.

The outlawed group is a puritanical faction which does not recognise any existing Arab or Muslim regimes and seeks to establish a Muslim regimes and seeks to establish a Muslim caliphate-style state through revolution.

Families Urge Saddam To Release Detainees

JN1710082195 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 17 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The families of a number of Jordanians detained in Iraq sent congratulations to President Saddam Husayn on his landslide victory in the general referendum in Iraq, the results of which were announced yesterday.

The families also commended the Iraqi pardon that covered several Jordanian citizens detained in Iraq. The families pleaded to the Iraqi president to apply the presidential pardon to the remaining Jordanian detainees, particularly following the results of the referendum on Saddam Husayn's presidency.

The plea was made through phones calls to AL-ASWAQ from the families of some of the Jordanians who are still detained in Iraq.

Army Troops Reportedly on 'Alert' in South

NC1610204695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] REUTER has reported that the Lebanese army in the south has been placed on a state of alert. It added that security and political officials are watching the situation in the south with concern.

'Resistance' Retaliates Against Israeli Assaults

NC1610181295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The well-prepared and bruising operations with which the resistance is retaliating to the repeated Israeli assaults on the south have caused great confusion in official Israeli circles, forcing Israeli enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to visit Marj 'Uyun twice in fewer than five days. They also provoked threats from Israeli ministers to carry out a specific military response against the resistance.

Antoine Lahd, commander of the agents' militia [South Lebanese Army] warned that the Lebanese Government will pay a price for the resistance operations.

The resistance has not submitted to these threats. It resumed its retaliations against the Israeli assaults by carrying out two operations in Sujud and Bi'r Kallab. [passage omitted]

The Israeli occupation forces have continued shelling southern areas, directing fierce artillery fire today against the hilly areas of Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly al-Jabal al-Akhdar, Tallat 'Uthman, the al-Litani River Basin, the peripheries of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, Frun, and al-Qantarah. This evening they used phosphoric bombs against their targets near the Finnish contingent's position in al-Ghanduriyah. The shelling was accompanied by large-caliber machine-gun fire against wooded areas near al-Litani and 'Arab Salim.

According to security reports from the border strip, the occupation forces established a new military observation post on the roof of Marj 'Uyun's government hospital, disregarding the most elementary international conventions which ban any armed presence in hospitals and other medical centers.

According to other reports, the occupation forces perpetrated a hideous crime in the occupied village of Dibbin. They kidnapped, tortured, and killed Usamah Nimr Husaykah, a student of religious disciplines who was visiting his relatives in the village.

The resistance, however, did not have its hands-tied regarding these escalating assaults. It attacked two posts of the agents in Sujud and Bi'r Kallab. Following the operation, the agents' radio station admitted that a member of the their forces had been wounded.

The Lebanese Resistance Battalions, Amal, issued a statement this afternoon declaring: In retaliation against the Israeli assaults, an Amal group attacked the Kufayr al-Zayt position which is manned by enemy personnel and their agents with various types of weapons. The position sustained direct hits and several of its defenders were either killed or wounded. [passage omitted]

SLA Commander, Rabin View Security Developments

NC1610174395 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visited Marj 'Uyun this morning. [passage omitted] Rabin held a lengthy meeting with Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. Lahd said after the meeting that Rabin wanted to explore his views concerning the recent security developments.

Maj. Gen. Lahd declined to elaborate on the talks held during the meeting. He, however, addressed the following to the Lebanese officials: The Israeli works for Israel's interest, and the Syrian works for Syria's interest. But the Lebanese regrettably works for foreign interests. If the situation continues to proceed on this path, the Lebanese state will undoubtedly pay the price for this.

Hizballah on Israeli Objectives, 'Aggressions'

NC1610194395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Hajj Muhammad Ra'd, chairman of Hizballah's Political Bureau, by Jihad al-'Idan; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Hajj Ra'd, you recently carried out heroic and daring operations in south Lebanon, provoking the anger of the Zionist officials who began making threats. In light of these threats, do you expect a new Zionist aggression against Hizballah's positions?

[Ra'd] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Actually we expect Israeli aggressions at every moment whether resistance operations have been carried out or not. Aggression is part of the Zionists' nature and is designed to fulfill their expansionist scheme to swallow up the whole region. Therefore, the resistance and the Lebanese people are constantly alert to Israeli aggression. What remains to be discussed is how extensive this aggression will be. In my view, however, the enemy does not have many options regardless of these threats. First of all, the resistance has proved its ability to retaliate effectively. The enemy knows how effective resistance operations are. Secondly, the enemy is committed before international public opinion to what is called the July understanding, which restricts the enemy's assaults and movements against villages and civilians. At any rate, we declare that any attacks on civilians will cause the resistance to respond in an appropriate and effective manner that will be most damaging to the enemy.

[Al-'Idan] Can I understand from your remarks that you will resort to rocket attacks on northern occupied Palestine?

[Ra'd] When our people's security is subjected to danger from Zionist aggression, we consider ourselves at liberty to act appropriately.

[Al-'Idan] The recent operations in al-'Ayshiyah and the western sector of the border strip, indeed all the forms of the current escalation of jihad, do they have any connection with the so-called process of a peace settlement with the Zionist entity. Some people link these operations to the current political settlement moves.

[Ra'd] Regarding the Zionist enemy's objectives, the question can be put to the Zionists. As to the resistance, the timing of these two operations was actually dictated by the presence of favorable circumstances on the ground. There is no link at all between resistance operations against the Zionist enemy and the ongoing regional negotiations.

[Al-'Idan] Did these two heroic operations have any specific political significance?

[Ra'd] The two operations proved that the resistance is today better able to carry out retribution against the enemy than before and better able to monitor the enemy army's field movements and training. The two operations demonstrated improved resistance methods. Initiative in the field is actually in the hands of the Islamic Resistance now, contrary to the Zionist enemy's claims.

[Al-'Idan] Hajj Ra'd, thank you very much for giving this opportunity to the News and Reports program.

[Ra'd] You are welcome.

Hizballah To Import Arms 'Direct' From Tehran

BR1610141695 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 15 Oct 95 p 7

[Foreign Desk report: "An Airport for Hizballah"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lebanese Hizballah are looking for a safe airport. Sources in the Middle East have revealed to CORRIERE DELLA SERA that the pro-Iranian militia is exerting strong pressure to set up a direct air link between Tehran and Beirut. With this link the warriors of the "Party of God" will be able to receive aid, arms, and trainers directly. Hizballah, which so far has been supplied by the ayatollahs via Syria, wants to avoid any allied checks.

The movement's leaders fear that with any peace agreement with Israel, Damascus could prevent — as has already happened — the passage of men and equipment, thus creating serious problems for the resistance, which is fighting the Jerusalem army.

At a summit meeting in early September, Mohsen Rezai, head of the guardians of the Iranian revolution — the celebrated "pasdaran" — endorsed the request made by the Hizballah faithful for a direct link between Tehran and Beirut.

There are basically three advantages to the operation — if it is successfully concluded. The first is the possibility of supplying the struggle by the Lebanese Shiite militias. The second is the possibility of getting out from under Damascus' control. On a number of occasions the Syrians have blocked the influx of Iranian supplies to the Hizballah. The third is the possibility of sending new and sophisticated arms for apparently civilian uses.

The Hizballah have found the support of Druse community leader Walid Junblatt for their plan. After a visit to Iran, the flamboyant former Lebanese warlord stressed the importance of an air link with Tehran and the need to broaden economic ties between the two countries.

However, there is something else behind the "airport plan." For some time now the Hizballah have been creating — alongside its official structure — a secret network with secret landing places, hideouts, and arms caches to continue the armed struggle or organize terrorist actions.

Speaker Urges al-Hirawi To Extend Term

NC1610180095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, on behalf of the heads of the parliamentary blocs he met with on 11 October, has issued a statement appealing to President Ilyas al-Hirawi to use his constitutional right to propose that the government submit a draft law to the Chamber of Deputies to reconsider Article 49 of the Constitution.

The statement praises President al-Hirawi as an example of courage and bravery in leading Lebanon from the state of war to the horizon of peace. The statement says President al-Hirawi safeguarded Lebanon, kept the south in his heart, and worked to maintain the highest level of coordination between Lebanon and Syria.

Al-Hirawi Agrees To Extend

NC1610122495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1116 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Statement by President Ilyas al-Hirawi to the cabinet, at the presidential Palace in B'abda—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Prime Minister, Your Excellencies the ministers: I have taken it upon myself not to exercise the right stipulated in Article 76 of the Constitution. However, in view of your wishes, in response to the wish of the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and the desire of the people's representatives, and in appreciation of the reasons, considerations, and stands contained in your letter, I can only patriotically concur, for I have never hesitated to serve Lebanon. I thank you for your esteemed confidence. This confidence encourages me to continue to shoulder the responsibility for completing the march of peace, reconstruction, liberation, and the repatriation of the refugees.

I tell you frankly that I cannot shoulder this responsibility alone. All of us—-officials, institutions, and citizens—should work together hand in hand to continue our achievements for Lebanon. Long live Lebanon. May God grant you success.

Lebanon Said Headed Toward 'Dictatorship'

NC1610073895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Phalangist Party Leader Dr. George Sa'adah has stated that he is afraid that Lebanon is headed toward a dictatorship in which the a victor-vanquished atmosphere will prevail. He noted that most of those who support the extension of the president's term are looking after their own private interests. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Addresses Message to President

NC1610143095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1050 GMT 16 Oct 95

["Text" of letter from the cabinet to President Ilyas al-Hirawi; read by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at the Presidential Palace in B'abda—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Excellency Mr. President: At today's meeting of the cabinet, it entrusted me with presenting a letter to Your Excellency. I will read it now:

His Excellency President of the Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi:

At its meeting on Monday, 16 October 1995, the Cabinet made a unanimous decision to address the following message to Your Excellency:

Your Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi: When you assumed power as president on 24 November 1989, a climate of general anxiety prevailed in the country, which affected various aspects of national life. There was anxiety about the unity of the state, country, and people. There was anxiety about the viability of the constitutional institutions, national accord, social peace, and a unity in the Army and other security forces. There was an anxiety about the nation's future and ending the Israeli occupation of our land in the south and the western al-Biqa'.

This anxiety worsened as a result of the onslaught on domestic peace after the assassination of martyr President Rene Mu'awwad and the local and regional developments that enmeshed Lebanon in a cycle of armed violence for more than a year. These developments came close to destroying all the achievements of the al-Ta'if Accord. Those are the circumstances under which you were elected and took the oath to preserve the independence of Lebanon, its territorial integrity, and respect for the Constitution. Under those circumstances your first steps in office were taken from an office in the Army barracks in Ablah at a time when carrying out your responsibilities looked almost impossible in view of the grim circumstances and expectations, and the state of turmoil that prevailed in the region as a result of the confrontation over the Israeli occupation of the south and the mounting tension in the Arab Gulf.

Your Excellency: You took what at the time was termed a risk. You in fact accepted the challenge. You immediately started to work to restore the unity of the establishments amidst political and security minefields and sharp divisions in the Lebanese state, such as the rifts that were imposed on the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces at the time, and the slicing off of part of the country and its establishments in a futile ploy. In this ploy the Presidential Palace was manipulated in a wager on based on external illusions and hopes for changes in the regional balance of power. This wager had as its aim the destruction of the equations and options defined in the National Accord Document.

That climate did not affect your participation in consolidating the pillars of government and your contribution to the fateful decisions on the country's affairs and to strengthening the pillars of the state and rehabilitating all constitutional institutions. In moving toward this goal, you left no room for a political void. After taking the constitutional oath, you issued a decree forming a Cabinet. You also called for a battle to save Lebanon and the Lebanese. You clearly defined your options immediately at a coordination meeting with fraternal Syria, which greatly and essentially contributed to restoring security and stability and advancing the march to national accord. You organized a quiet, gradual transfer from the Army barracks in Ablah to the temporary presidential headquarters in al-Ramlah al-Bayda', then to the permanent presidential seat at B'abda Palace. You, along with the new government team, contributed to revitalizing the state and its agencies and preparing for crucial decisions at all levels.

Six years have now passed. The leadership is now in touch with all Lebanese in all areas. Your course demonstrates the magnitude of the achievements and the difficult distance Lebanon has covered going from a state headed toward collapse to one firmly striding the path of construction.

The achievements so far, Mr. President, do not diminish the hopes the Lebanese pin on their government and the presidency, because they head the state. These hopes relate to the needs and ambitions of the people, as well as their aspiration to catch up with construction and make up for as much of the time lost since the beginning of the crisis as possible. History will testify to the fact that the strides Lebanon took during your term were very big. In fact, considering the crucial time for the region and challenges it posed and in view of the war damage to the state and all segments of society, these strides are much greater than are usually achieved in a single presidential term. This is particularly true if we consider the difficulties encountered during your term, the long months that were wasted on the many minor and major conflicts, the mutinies, rebellions, and other conflicts that have hampered the growth of the state. In fact, the president's term has been divided in two. The first half was characterized by achievements in restoring security; dealing with the military, social, and political effects of the war; and finding ways to unite the constitutional institutions. The second half was characterized by implementing the national accord document, revitalizing the state administration, and reinvigorating the process of construction and economic growth.

An objective examination of both parts of the president's term of office enables us to review the achievements of the various governments during your time. Here are some of the most important of these. The Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination with sisterly Syria was signed and implementation of its provisions regarding the various aspects of cooperation started. The rhythm of negotiations was made to conform to national and pan-Arab principles; blackmail in Marj al-Zuhur was rejected; and the need to confront the occupation and embrace the resistance was confirmed. All forms of division and fragmentation have been strictly fought, and [Palestinian] resettlement has been rejected outright in accordance with the preamble to the Constitution and the National Reconciliation document. Military rebellions have been terminated, and the Army and all legitimate security forces—including the Internal Security Forces, the Public Security Forces, and State Security Forces—have been reunited. A decision was made to dissolve the Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias and to deploy the legitimate forces on all Lebanese territory, including Greater Beirut, and to entrust the Army with peace-keeping duties with specific duties such as preventing the carrying of arms, ownership of weapons, and opening of armed centers. The equipment of the Army and security forces was retrieved, illegal tax-gathering was banned, kidnapping was combated, the coastal and border entrance ports were monitored, and Beirut port was reopened after 408 days. All this fell within the framework of cooperation with the Syrian Arab forces and their leadership, who paid special attention to the security issue in Lebanon.

In addition, the Army's deployment in the south was expanded. The Army also monitored the hand over of the weapons and arms of the militias and parties. A security plan was instituted around the camps. The file of foreign hostages in Lebanon was closed forever and all hostages were released between August and December 1991. The constitutional reform law was approved in accordance with the requirements of national reconciliation. The process of returning all refugees to various parts of Lebanon was launched and serious steps were taken toward national and civil reconciliation in various areas. The freedoms of the public were preserved, particularly the freedom of opinion and expression. The Press Law was amended, particularly with regard to abolishing preventive detention of journalists. Compulsory service in the Lebanese Army was approved and implemented.

The first parliamentary elections since 1972 were held. The Constitutional Council and Higher Court were set up to try presidents and ministers. The law on the Social and Economic Council was approved, as was the law on television and radio transmissions as a following-up to the national reconciliation document. Monetary chaos and inflation were curbed, and the largest construction and building project in the history of Lebanon and the region was begun in order to serve Lebanon's future needs and the requirements for rehabilitating the infrastructure, strengthening the national economy, and increasing its productivity and competitiveness.

A decree on naturalization was issued restoring to thousands of citizens the honor of Lebanese citizenship. The independence and sovereignty of the judiciary was bolstered and fortified, the level of its performance was raised, and the situation of the judges was improved. The authority of the law was strengthened; and criminals, disruptive elements, and those causing disturbances have been severely punished. Producing and selling drugs has been stopped.

In addition, there are many details regarding the numerous attempts to start rebuilding the state and restoring unity among the Lebanese in order to contribute toward preparing for launching construction and development and entrenching the bases for economic, financial, and social stability, as well as the means for building confidence in the future of our homeland, Lebanon.

Mr. President, your term has faced major challenges to decisions that were taken in a clear and courageous manner and enabled the country to avert the shocks and setbacks it suffered from in the past. Together with the successive governments, you followed a courageous policy which restored Lebanon to the international club after violence imposed a political and security quarantine on it, including from those countries that were categorized as friendly to Lebanon. The image Lebanon has, among friendly and fraternal countries, is definitely contrary to the image that prevailed a few years ago. In addition, Lebanon's diplomatic activity during your term has yielded its fruit of continuous contacts between Beirut and most of the capitals that care about Lebanon's progress and its distinguished role in the east. Perhaps the clearest points one can mention are the addition of a Lebanese presence in all the international forums, the return of most Arab and foreign organizations and missions to Beirut, and the placement of Lebanon on the list of economic and development priorities of states, institutions, and international organizations that are concerned about Lebanon. In light of all of this, Lebanon has managed to maintain its independent economic decisions and avert being held hostage by some policies, because it took definitive decisions on its options, such as its stance on the peace process and its distinguished relationship with Syria, both of which constitute the backbone of Lebanon's regional policy and its foreign policy. Lebanon agreed to take part in the peace process, as was decided during the Madrid meeting of 1991, in accordance with a number of principles which it still adheres to. These principles are the implementation of Resolution 425, a comprehensive resolution, and commitment to a united Arab stance. Lebanon has not diverted from these principles despite the pressures it faced previously, including the daily military pressures and continuous attacks on our people and land in the south and western al-Biqa'. Also, Lebanon did not divert from its principles despite the fact that some Arab parties abandoned their commitments toward Lebanon and Syria and adopted unilateral policies violating the basic principles regarding Arab solidarity.

If the firm Lebanese stance, alongside the status quo imposed by resistance to the occupation, has contributed toward preserving national peace and strengthening Lebanon's negotiating stance with Israel, it has also revealed the positive effects of coordination with Syria and the importance of continuing this coordination, particularly at this exceptional and sensitive stage in the history of Lebanon and the region. Recent developments in the region point to a number of events that are inter-linked on political, economic, and normalization levels. They require that Lebanon be fully aware of these dimensions and united when facing the various possibilities, always proceeding from cooperation and coordination with Syria and commitment to consultation with regard to all issues dealing with bilateral, pan-Arab, and international relations.

There are political and diplomatic trends that for some time have been attempting to harm the Lebanese and Syrian roles in the settlement. These trends consist of schemes to restrain the peace tracks and divert them from the options that were defined four years ago in Madrid. What is of interest to Lebanon regarding these policies is to highlight the need to return to the origins, that is to the basic principles over which agreement was reached in the Madrid conference, that is implementation of the international resolutions, foremost of which is Resolution 425.

Lebanon never diverted from the course of Arab solidarity. Therefore, it will not divert from the course of coordination and absolute alliance with Syria, no matter how strong the pressures and how extensive the threats. The security of Lebanon is the same as the security of Syria, and vice versa. The current regional situation is a situation both countries are facing together in order to liberate their lands in the south, the western al-Biqa', and the Golan Heights.

Governments during your term adopted the strategic option of coordinating with Syria and strengthening economic, political, and security ties between the two countries. This option was translated into the Treaty of Brotherhood, Coordination, and Cooperation—the objective of which was to entrench the bases of political, economic, and security cooperation between the two countries. The Treaty led to organizing and providing the rationale for relations in the interest of both countries, and to placing them within a legal framework, thus securing its development for the future regardless of limited political changes. This Treaty is considered to be a prominent achievement for organizing relations between Lebanon and Syria in a way that enables Lebanon to avert the shocks and misunderstanding that this relationship suffered from in the past. The Treaty has contributed toward strengthening Lebanon and the means of cooperation between the two countries. This has been reflected in various sectors, particularly in helping to rebuild the Lebanese Army and confirming its unity.

Your Excellency, the achievements that have been accomplished are clearly visible to all Lebanese people. Some of these achievements have already been completed while others are still being implemented. But the greater achievement, which concerns the liberation of the land from the Israeli occupation, is facing numerous obstacles and schemes as well as difficult negotiations. We will be asked to provide the prerequisites for the success of these negotiations in order to ensure the departure of the occupation forces from our land and the confirmation of our sovereignty on the entire land.

Perhaps, the next three years will represent the most critical stage on the regional level if we allow any hampering with our domestic components. These three years will instead be a period of strength if we know how to unify our ranks to confront the regional developments and challenges. In this regard, we are pinning hope on consolidating the march of the state's political, economic, security, and social stability; on asserting the role of the institutions; and on advancing the wheels of construction and production. This would help the Lebanese alleviate some of the burdens which were bequeathed to them during the years of war.

Your Excellency, your term ends on 23 November, in accordance with the constitution. This term was replete with great activities that indeed make it an extraordinary and historic term in the life of the Lebanese. It is a term which succeeded in ending a war that lasted for 17 years. It is the term which succeeded in establishing the mainstays of brotherhood with Syria. This term also is the one which laid the cornerstone for the renaissance of a new Lebanon.

Hence and in accordance with article 76 of the constitution, we have decided to ask your excellency to propose a constitutional bill to extend your term for another three years. We derive our call from the changes recently witnessed on the regional level, from the consultations that we conducted on various domestic levels, and from the parliamentary stands that have been expressed by the most of the blocs at the esteemed Chamber of Deputies. These stands support the extension of your term so that you will continue to shoulder the national responsibility.

The cabinet submits this message to your excellency hoping that, if it meets with your approval, it will be regarded as sufficient grounds for the bill that we intend to refer to the Chamber of Deputies. The cabinet also hopes that it will reaffirm our commitment to Lebanon's strategic options.

Lebanon is facing a historic task. It requires all of us to rise to its level and to deal with it in line with the clear experience of the next [as heard] six years and the vision needed for the next three years. We are seeking to entrench this vision by committing ourselves to the government's and state's basic policy and options, particularly with regard to the following issues:

First, we will provide full support to the Lebanese-Syrian relationship and to expanding existing cooperation and coordination in a manner that will safeguard the two fraternal countries' mutual security, political, economic, and social interests and enable both to face all likely emergencies on the regional scene including preparations for political settlements, whether positive or negative.

Second, we are committed to the liberation of all Lebanese territories from Israeli occupation on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and working hand in hand with fraternal Syria to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Perhaps the Lebanese-Syrian coordination to confront these serious regional developments is the primary task awaiting the Lebanese Government in the coming stage and the basic foundation for averting the dangers that might arise from the requirements of peace or the lack thereof.

Third, we are committed to the exigencies of cooperation and coordination with the legislative power in line with the Constitution and the national accord document.

Fourth, we will complete the implementation of the provisions of the national accord document in a manner that will improve the conditions of domestic unity, pave the way for the establishment of a modern state, and enshrine the principle of balanced economic growth. In this context the foremost task is to draw up a new election law in accordance with which the parliamentary elections will be held on schedule.

Fifth, we will complete the process of returning all displaced Lebanese citizens to their homes, consolidating the reconciliation among various national groups, and rebuilding the areas from which the citizens had originally been displaced in a way that will definitively settle this issue and safeguard the conditions of national unity and domestic peace.

Sixth, we will expand the range of social and health services, complete the new educational plan, support government schools and the Lebanese University in line with the provisions of the national accord document.

Seventh, we will continue to boost the process of reconstruction and mobilize all resources to ensure its success, noting that we have begun to reap the first fruits of this process in the spheres of electricity, water, telephone services, roads, and various other aspects of the country's infrastructure. We will also reinvigorate the municipal councils to make them contribute to the country's balanced economic growth and hold municipal elections as soon as possible.

Eighth, we will insist on rebuilding and reforming the country's administrative structure despite the obstacles that formerly hindered this process. We will create legal, moral, and financial incentives for employees in order to ensure that the state's institutions will be served with higher competence, productivity, and accountability.

Ninth, we will continue to upgrade the Lebanese Army so that it will carry out its duty in defending the homeland.

Tenth, we will strengthen and reinvigorate the Internal Security Forces and various other security agencies to enable them to maintain the country's security in line with the provisions of the national accord document.

Your Excellency Mr. President, the sum of these options equals a commitment to the exigencies of political, economic, and security stability. Taken together they signify the state's strategic options for liberating our territories from Israeli occupation and restoring our sovereignty to all of our national soil in the south and western al-Biqa'.

Your Excellency Mr. President, our message to you today is a message of loyalty and appreciation to a man who has risen to the required level of beneficence and who adopted difficult decisions at difficult times. Today, we urge him to continue in his position of responsibility. May God grant you success and guide your steps for the good of Lebanon and the Lebanese people.

Long may you live. Long live Lebanon.

Al-Hariri Meets Bonn Industrialists

AU1410163995 Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 12 Oct 95 p 11

[Report by 'tl': "German Economic Office in Beirut"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 3 November, Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt and Hans-Peter Stihl, president of the German Industry and Trade Association [DIHT], will open a German economic bureau in Beirut. This was announced during Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's meeting with German industrialists at the DIHT's Bonn headquarters.

This DIHT bureau could play an important role in growing German-Lebanese trade relations, said Hans-Peter Keitel, chairman of the board of the Hochtief AG construction firm. According to information from the Bonn Economics Ministry, a treaty on avoiding double taxation should be concluded at the end of the year. Talks on an agreement on the protection of investments are still at an early stage. A preliminary stance issued by the Lebanese Government indicates no major differences of opinion.

Al-Hariri called upon German industry to continue to be active in Lebanon. He pointed out that Lebanese corporate and income tax amounts to only 10 percent and that the country is a secure place for investments. Economic growth lies between 6 and 8 percent. Al-Hariri pointed out, also with regard to criticism inside Lebanon itself, that the country wants to resolve its social problems first of all.

In an emotional tone, the Lebanese prime minister explained to the German industrialists his objective of developing Lebanon, and especially Beirut, into a financial and economic center for the Middle East. He said the country has a banking tradition and good banking system, and discharges its debts punctually.

Al-Hariri brushed aside the fears of German industrialists whereby Lebanon would undertake on a priorty basis economic cooperation with France on account of the historic links between the two countries. If the price and competitiveness of German products is right, then Germany will have the same chances as everyone else, he said.

Rexrodt, who met Al-Hariri in Bonn yesterday, reported that the highest volume of German-Lebanese trade so far was reached in 1994, amounting to 767 million marks [DM], of which German exports to Lebanon, chiefly investment goods, amounted to DM743 million. Both sides agreed on measures to reduce the Lebanese trade deficit. These include an exports promotion seminar financed by the Economics Ministry and due to take place early November.

Al-Hariri appeared impressed with his talks with Chancellor Kohl, saying this was one of the best meetings he had held since he came into office three years ago. Al-Hariri said that he and Kohl also discussed German-Lebanese cooperation in establishing a dual system of vocational training. Kohl underscored Bonn's readiness to expand economic relations.

'Arafat's Condemnation of Lebanon Attack Assailed

JN1610182695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1650 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary from the "Palestine Broadcast" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting at the Erez checkpoint between Yasir 'Arafat, head of the limited self-rule authority, and Shim'on Peres, foreign minister of Israel, coincided with a successful fedayeen operation carried out by the Lebanese national resistance in southern Lebanon. In this operation, an Israeli officer and five Israeli soldiers were killed, and five other soldiers were wounded.

Yasir 'Arafat's denunciation and condemnation of this operation has called for astonishment and denunciation. He said such operations undermine the peace process in the region. In the past, Yasir 'Arafat denounced all fedayeen operations carried out by the Palestinian resistance in the occupied territories following the Oslo agreement signed on 13 September 1993.

What is new in 'Arafat's policy of denouncing resistance is the fact that he denounced a fedayeen action carried out by the Lebanese national resistance against the Israeli occupation forces, which are occupying southern Lebanon and insisting on this occupation and on evading the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. This resolution provides for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from occupied Lebanese territory.

It seems as though 'Arafat wants the pledge he made before signing the Oslo agreement to apply to other issues. Under no circumstances does 'Arafat have the right to do so. This is because the Lebanese people are the ones who will determine the mode of their struggle to remove Israeli occupation.

The Oslo and Taba agreements are shackling 'Arafat, and not the heroes of the Arab national resistance—whether Palestinian, Lebanese, or other Arab heroes. Resistance to occupation has continued despite the submissive agreements signed by the leadership of the limited self-rule authority.

Press Analyzes al-Asad AL-AHRAM Interview

JN1310073695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "A Position and a Decision," AL-THWRAH says: Amid disinformation campaigns and attempts at falsification, distortion, reversing facts, and making believe that the peace process in the region is on the right track, President Hafiz al-Asad gave an important, comprehensive interview to the Cairo-based AL-AHRAM newspaper. The president's interview is another bright spot that illuminates the road and defines the path of salvation for the nation and its masses. The president's wise and rational remarks also set a framework for joint pan-Arab action.

The paper asserts that every word in the interview stresses the national and pan-Arab principles that govern Syria's positions, actions, and efforts for a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the legal and political framework of the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH says President Hafiz al-Asad explained the reasons for the failure of the peace process to achieve any significant progress. He also spoke about Israel's rejection of the U.S. initiative, reviewing the bilateral rounds of talks in Washington and the current stalemate on the Syrian track thanks to a stubborn, maneuvering, and obstructive policy that adheres to the occupation of Arab territories.

The paper adds: As President Hafiz al-Asad said, we support the peace process. Under no circumstances will Syria do anything that contradicts its beliefs and pan-Arab interests. We want a just peace for us and for all nations. We do not want any symbol of the occupation on our land. Therefore, the question of early-warning stations on the ground is unthinkable, even if this leads to the collapse of the peace process. This stand is absolutely irreversible.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Since the start, Syria adopted a clear attitude toward the peace process that was launched in Madrid and toward the principles on whose basis it joined this process; namely, achieving a just and comprehensive peace through full implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace formula. In light of this, Syria adopted a positive attitude in all the stages of the peace process.

The paper notes that the peace process is still at square one due to Israel's intransigence and refusal to respond to the requirements of this process. When Syria embraces a just and comprehensive peace, this is because this peace can provide security and stability for the region and meet the requirements of the aspired peace. This is especially so since developments have shown that the separate deals and partial solutions which Israel promoted — whose mirage deceived some people — could not advance peace at all. What happened is the complete opposite.

AL-THAWRAH adds: As President al-Asad said, we support peace based on the full implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. This peace must meet the Arabs' just demands. The Arabs want an end to occupation and restoration of their rights. We want a peace that achieves full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories. This demand is in line with UN resolutions. Therefore, we reject any presence of the occupation or any of its symbols on our land, under any formula or in any form.

The paper concludes: The road to peace is clear. It is represented in the resolutions of international legitimacy, to which Syria is fully committed. Whoever wants peace has only to declare his intention to commit himself to it. Israel has so far not done that. Instead, it has defied this legitimacy and refused to implement its resolutions. This makes the international community, particularly the U.S. sponsor of the peace process, responsible for ending Israel's defiance and forcing it to submit to the will of real peace.

World Urged To Study al-Asad's Statements

JN1510200095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and Gentlemen: Judging by the Israeli leaders' policy, their approach to the peace process, and their series of statements, one can conclude that all their ideas, statements, and even proposals evade touching on the principles of the peace process from which everyone proceeded four years ago.

Had the Israelis continued to play their own tunes all by themselves, their discordant notes would have been clear to all, their stance exposed, and their modus operandi unacceptable. However, miscalculations—not to mention deviations—prompted some Arabs to follow Israel's discordant notes, which led to the tragic results with regard to the Palestine cause, the restoration of lands and rights, and the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

If the international community and its institutions objectively evaluate what happened and compare it with their approach and resolutions, then the parties who helped push the region to such conditions must be held responsible for these serious consequences. Those who are seeking to establish an effective peace and are providing the requirements of sustainability and continuity for this peace, are not the same as those who seek to harm the essence of peace and lay mines within its structure. They do this despite their awareness of the truth. They turn their faces away from the truth and keep a closed eye to the seeds of disruption with which they threaten the peace process, the region and its peoples, as well as the future generations.

By adhering to the constants of the peace process, its principles, and bases, Syria seeks to achieve a peace that is stable. Therefore, Syria is making facts clear for all to see. Hence, President Hafiz al-Asad was, as usual, very clear in declaring the truth and placing matters in their right context. He did this with objectivity and faithfulness that aims at preserving the credibility of the Syrian approach in the eyes of the world, its institutions, leaders, and for the sake of history, too.

President al-Asad's statements to AL-AHRAM newspaper requires a careful reading on the part of the Arabs, the Israelis, the United States, Russia, and the entire world. They should read between the lines and grasp all the connotations that pertain to the most dangerous stage in the life of the Middle East, which constitutes a pillar in international peace and stability.

The question remains: Why? Who stripped the Madrid conference of its contents, and for whose sake? Who was it that tried to circumvent the outcome of the Geneva summit, which was held between al-Asad and Clinton, the Damascus summit, and the U.S. President's tour in the region? Who tried to ruin all the tours undertaken by Warren Christopher, or those made by James Baker, former U.S. secretary of state to the region, and all the initiatives, tours, proposals, and agreements, in addition to thousands of documents and covenants which were signed and then revoked. Who is responsible? Does this policy serve the peace process, and how? Do the current models represent real peace, or are they mines that threaten the entire region and its peoples?

The questions will remain unanswered. However, the Israelis, those who have strayed from the strait and narrow path to follow them, and all the Arab people know the answers.

Talas Comments on Early-Warning Stations

JN1610211795 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the army and the Armed Forces, our Air Force and Air Defenses commemorated their 49th anniversary. Deputizing for the president, Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, sponsored the celebration. [passage omitted]

Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, the commander in chief's representative, gave a speech conveying the congratulations of President Hafiz al-Asad to the personnel of the Air Force and Air Defenses on their glorious day. He also conveyed President al-Asad's wishes of success to the personnel in their national and pan-Arab missions.

Lt. Gen. Talas spoke about the Israeli proposals on setting up early-warning stations on the Golan Heights. He said: This is an exposed and wholly unacceptable extortion. We will not accept any form of occupation on our land. This was reaffirmed by President al-Asad when he said: If they are thinking of early-warning stations, then this is a nonstarter even if the peace process collapses, because we do not want to get rid of an occupation to maintain another occupation.

Concluding his speech, Lt. Gen. Talas urged the fighters to remain on the maximum degree of preparedness and alertness. He said that victory will be the lot of the people who are led by struggler Hafiz al-Asad. Lt. Gen. Talas said the fact that the Air Force and Air Defenses' anniversary coincides with the 22nd anniversary of October liberation war means that it is imperative to preserve the spirit and the struggle-related values of October war by pressing ahead with efforts to defend the homeland and the nation's holy places. Lt. Gen Talas reviewed the Air Force and Air Defenses' struggle march which is full of eternal examples and great sacrifices, which were manifested during October war and Lebanon's battles. He said the fighters of this force recorded heroic epics that will continue to serve as a shining beacon guiding our future generations.

Lt. Gen. Talas talked in his speech about the efforts to bring about a just peace in the region. He said that Syria believes that the aspired peace is that peace which completely terminates occupation, restores lands to their owners, and ensures Arab rights in accordance with resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

Lt. Gen. Talas said that history will not forgive all those who relinquished their land and the rights of their people. He referred to the agreements concluded by some Arabs with Israel, particularly Oslo agreements, the Taba agreement, and the Wadi al-'Arabah agreement. He added that Israel is still placing obstacles along the path of peace, fabricating pretexts, and using maneuvers to keep the peace process in a state of dormancy and standstill so it can maintain occupation and lay its hands on Arab resources.

He added: Syria, which responded to all the efforts that were exerted to revive hopes that such peace coould be established, will accept nothing short of restoring all the occupied Arab lands back to the 4 June lines. No measure clashing with our pan-Arab interest and legitimate rights and sovereignty on our lands can be accepted. This was underscored by President al-Asad when he said: We support the peace process, but we do not accept being underestimated. There is no possibility, regardless of any changes or consequences, that we will ever do anything which we do not believe in or which contradicts the pan-Arab interest.

At the end of the celebration, all chanted the Ba'th anthem and Lt. Gen. Talas was seen off with due respect and esteem.

Israeli Policy Blamed for Death of Soldiers

JN1610170395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Lebanese Option," AL-BA'TH says: Israel's aggressive policy is fully responsible for the deaths of the Israeli Army soldiers. This will remain the case as long as this army is occupying the territory of others, and daily committing aggression. The weapons of this army are killing people mercilessly, and wreaking havoc without any qualms. This situation will continue as long as Israel pays no attention to the UN resolutions and violates international law.

The paper adds: International law gives people who are aggressed upon the right to resist the aggressors. This same law prevents the occupation of others' territory by use of force. This law also obliges the United Nations to oppose and prevent aggression.

AL-BA'TH says the Lebanese people, who acknowledge the United Nations and the resolutions and recommendations of its various organizations and committees, have been under a siege that is similar to piracy. The pirate this time is an entity that is a member of the United Nations and is obliged to implement its resolutions—Israel. Lebanon's commitment to UN laws and international law has not shielded its children from the Israeli bombardment of death. Nor has this commitment protected Lebanon's villages and farmlands from death and destruction.

The paper goes on: Israel's practices entirely contradict the peace aspired to by the region. This peace is the antithesis of the arrogance displayed by the generals of the Israeli Army. The peace sought by the region is one that forbids Israeli defiance of Security Council Resolution 425, and one which prevents Israel from continuing its siege and aggression against Lebanon. Israel's choice of aggression as the means to impose its self-styled peace will make the Lebanese people resort to the strategy used by the French against Hitler, and the methods used by Europeans who fought against Fascism and Nazism.

Damascus Not To Accept 'Any Form' of Occupation

JN1610171995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, TISHRIN asserts that Israel is responsible for the stalemate in the peace process. There has been no change in Israel's intransigent stand toward the advancement of the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

The paper blames Israel for foiling the talks that took place under U.S. sponsorship. It also blames Israel for not resuming the talks, noting that the Israeli Government showed no enthusiasm about U.S. efforts to activate the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

The paper says the U.S. secretary of state was planning to visit the region, and President Clinton did express willingness to make a personal effort to invigorate the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. The Rabin government, however, showed no interest, and did not respond to the efforts of the U.S. Administration.

Observers believe Israel's impossible conditions, such as the groundstations on the Golan, amount to an exposed attempt to destroy the peace process with Syria. This is because Syria insists on implementation of Security Council resolutions, and rejects partial settlements. Syria also links peace to Israel's full withdrawal and the return of the Golan to its motherland.

TISHRIN asserts that Syria has always been frank. It declared that peace is a strategic option, and that it will spare no effort to achieve a just and comprehensive solution in the region. This, however, requires Israel's submission to the resolutions of international legitimacy. It is common knowledge that these resolutions permit no form of occupation or infringement on the geography of the occupied Arab territories. In addition, these resolutions reject settlement activity and annexation.

TISHRIN adds: Syria is not willing to accept any form of Israeli occupation, or efforts to find new euphemisms for this occupation. The groundstations which Israel wants on the Golan are, in effect, blatant occupation, and provide for a permanent presence of the occupation, along with means of supply and logistics. This clearly violates Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and conflicts with the principles of the peace process.

The paper says Israel's insistence on these stations is meant to weasel out of the peace process and evade its obligations.

AL-THAWRAH Criticizes Oslo 'Concessions'

JN1510172395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, AL-THAWRAH speaks about the peace process and refers to Syria's warning throughout the peace process, which began four years ago, of Israel's deceptive talk about an optimistic atmosphere, and media talk about alleged progress on the Syrian track.

The newspaper says: Syria emphasized that what counts is implementation, and Israel is skillful in saying something and doing something else in line with the policy of playing for time without making a substantial progress in the peace process especially on the Syrian track where the requirements of peace and the international legitimacy are clear.

The newspaper says that within its negotiating game, Israel employed the policy of negotiations for the sake of negotiations as an objective in itself because this policy gives serious illusions that the peace process is continuing and that it its making progress, though slowly, which serves Israel to deceive the Arab and international public opinions.

AL-THAWRAH says: Therefore, Syria rejected the Israeli policy based on negotiating for the sake of negotiations and holding meetings for objectives other than reaching substantial results that advance the peace process toward the aspired objective, which is realizing peace, security, and stability in the region.

The newspaper adds: As leader al-Asad asserted, Syria is on to the Israeli policy, and will not bow to this policy because Syria is with peace. It will not allow itself to be taken lightly, and will never embark on something in which it does not believe or anything that conflict with the pan-Arab interests.

In its editorial, AL-BA'TH stresses that Rabin's government always obstructs peace efforts. Since Washington's military talks ended, Israel has stuck to several points that serve its intransigent position on the peace process and efforts made to advance it. The newspaper refers to the tours in the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. He succeeded in reaching a conceptual understanding that defines the course of the talks in accordance with a clear agenda. It says Israel was quick to change this success into a sweeping failure when it returned to present the idea of early-warning ground stations, while it is well aware that such a thing has been decisively settled by Syria.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria has repeatedly emphasized its commitment to the peace process and the principles and bases on which it was launched that are based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions. It says: Syria has been and will continue to be with any effort aimed at advancing the peace process to reach its aspired objective—a just and comprehensive peace that can last, not peace that requires a string of agreements.

TISHRIN comments on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's decision to annex the settlement of Ma'ale Adummim to Jerusalem. The newspaper says this decision was made at a time when Rabin's government is insisting on isolating Jerusalem from the West Bank, and even on isolating the Jerusalem inhabitants from the Palestinian citizens in the rest of the West Bank. Israel wants thereby to create facts on the basis of settlements . It works toward annexing Jerusalem in systematic manner with plans, measures, and projects, and by dealing with self-rule on the basis that it does not apply toward land itself but is only restricted to the population. This is interpreted by the Israelis' insistence that the self-rule plan make the West Bank the vital strategic depth of the Israeli entity.

The newspaper says Oslo's deal fragmented the land, isolated its parts, and changed this land to scattered cantons and villages that are only linked by the occupation, its forces, and settlements, because security and sovereignty are fully in the hands of this occupation

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: Oslo's concessions have begun and are not over yet. These concessions will continue in order to realize the Israeli objective of liquidating the Palestinian people's rights in favor of the occupation and ending the Palestine question through the submission of the Palestinian Authority to Israeli diktat, demands, and conditions.

Israeli Attempts To End Arab Boycott Derided

JN1510194095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 oct 95

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the Zionist occupation of Palestine in 1948, which displaced over a million Palestinian refugees to the neighboring Arab states, the Arab League issued several resolutions aimed at combating the Zionist aggression and restoring the Palestinian people's right to their homeland, foremost of which is their right to return and self-determination.

One of these Arab resolutions was the Arab boycott of Israel. This resolution helped isolate Israel in the region, thus preventing it from carrying out its schemes of economic invasion. The Israeli sources estimated Israel's losses due to the Arab economic boycott at tens of billions of dollars. Israel could have saved these sums of money had the Arab markets been open to its products.

Hence, we realize the secret behind Israel's persistent efforts to try to cancel the Arab boycott. These efforts were especially successful following the signing of the Oslo agreement in Washington on 13 September 1993. The bodies who support Israel claimed that the signing of this agreement ends all justifications for maintaining Arab boycott.

However, the Oslo agreement did not meet the demands of the Palestinian people. Neither did it bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Israel continues to occupy the Arab territories it captured in 1967, in addition to the areas it occupied in southern Lebanon during its 1982 invasion. Israel continues to deny the Palestinian people their legitimate national rights, first and foremost their right to return and to self-determination. All these rights were recognized by the international community, which has repeatedly stressed the importance of their implementation.

Consequently, demanding the cancellation of the Arab boycott before a just and comprehensive peace is realized is nothing more than an attempt to tear the fabric of Arab solidarity, whose most prominent practical component is the consensus over the Arab boycott of Israel.

Papers View Peace, 'Struggle' in Lebanon

JN1710073795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0555 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Syria Is Faithful to Its Principles," TISHRIN says: In his interview with the Cairo-based AL-AHRAM newspaper, President Hafiz al-Asad said that Syria supports the peace process, but does not want this process to be taken lightly. Syria will never do anything that contradicts its beliefs, no matter what the circumstances and consequences. Nor will it ever do anything that contradicts pan-Arab principles. If Syria's conditions are met, then there will be peace. Otherwise, we will just stay as we are.

TISHRIN adds: Thus, President al-Asad thwarted Israel's extortionist maneuvers and drew the attention of the parties sponsoring the peace process to their responsibilities. Syria is committed to the peace process in form and content. It agreed to a just and comprehensive peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied territories.

The paper asserts that Syria, which believes in peace, does not want to see its principles and convictions taken lightly. As the president said, Syria will never do anything in which it does not believe. Syria will never bargain over its territory and rights or the rights and territories of the Arabs. Syria will not take part in any peaceful endeavor that does not lead to Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria is the pivot of the peace process, and without it there will be no stable peace in the region. Syria will continue on this road and will remain faithful to its message and loyal to its principles. It will pursue its pan-Arab policy that was charted by the glorious Corrective Movement.

AL-BA'TH comments on Israel's hard-line position on the peace process. The struggle operations which, in less than a week, killed or injured around 20 Israeli soldiers in the occupied part of southern Lebanon, confirm once again that peace and security cannot be achieved through occupation, aggression, terrorism, oppression of civilians, and the isolation and destruction of villages and cities.

The paper asserts that peace and security can be achieved through removing the occupation, stopping aggression, and abandoning terrorism. The opportunity to achieve a just and comprehensive peace is still available if Israel wants this. This solely depends on changing its hard-line position and complying with UN resolutions, international legitimacy, and the land-for-peace principle.

AL-BA'TH asserts that a just and comprehensive peace that restores rights to everybody cannot be achieved by aggression, terrorism, partial settlements, and the usurpation of the territory of others. Southern Lebanon has once again offered fresh evidence of this. Will Israel learn its lesson from the south before it is too late?

Committee Agrees on Supply of Oil, Fuel to Lebanon

JN1610123095 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 14 Sep 95 pp 1,11

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — The Joint Syrian-Lebanese Committee for the Exchange of Oil Products held its first meeting yesterday at the headquarters of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council in Damascus in the presence of Nasri al-Khuri, secretary general of the council.

The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Dr. Dawud Haydu, head of the Oil Marketing Bureau; Engineer Ra'fat al-Kurdi, general manager of the Fuel Company; Dr. Engineer Farid al-Lama', technical adviser to the Oil Ministry; Engineer Nabil al-Hamid, general manager of Baniyas Oil Refinery; and Engineer Salih 'Abd-al-Razzaq, assistant general manager of the Fuel Company. It was attended on the Lebanese side by Dr. Nicola Nasr, director general of the Oil Department; Nadim Khuri, assistant general manager of the Oil Establishment in Tripoli; Khalil Ambris, assistant general manager of the Oil Establishment in al-Zahrani; Mrs. Widad Sa'adah, head of the Divan Department and chief of commercial operations; and Engineer Ibrahim Haddad, head of the Refining Department.

The meeting was opened by Secretary General Nasri al-Khuri, who underlined the importance of cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the field of oil trade, affirming that the required integration will directly reflect the political and popular will of the two countries. Al-Khuri expressed the hope that both sides will find the broad common factors serving the interest of cooperation and coordination.

The committee reached a long-term practical formula to supply fraternal Lebanon with fuel oil for the private sector at the rate of 40,000 tonnes monthly and under the specifications set by the Lebanese side effective 1 October 1995.

Regarding gasoline, it was agreed to supply the Oil Ministry with whatever it needs. Regarding fuel oil for power stations, the Syrian side will offer fuel at favorable prices and under the specifications set by the Lebanese Electricity Company.

Syrian-Lebanese Water Committee Agrees on Steps

JN1610125095 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 21 Sep 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus [SANA] — The Joint Syrian-Lebanese Water Committee yesterday held its periodic meeting under Nasri al-Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council.

In this meeting, which was held at the council's headquarters, al-Khuri spoke about the efforts being made by the committee to implement the provisions of the agreement on sharing Orontes River water and the need to complete the studies on other joint water projects. He also called for further efforts to complete the work program agreed upon by the committee.

The conferees agreed on several executive steps to set up the hydrometric plant at the place fixed for it near al-Hirmil Bridge, compile the necessary studies on dredging and maintaining the Orontes River course, and charge a subcommittee with the task of preparing an initial field study on the southern al-Nahr al-Kabir River and submitting its findings to the next committee meeting, which is scheduled to take place at the council's headquarters on 31 October 1995.

Nation, Lebanon 'Twin Countries' Emphasized

JN1610162895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1237 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Nothing calls for reassurance and relief in Syria more than the feeling that Lebanon is stable and well again, and that Lebanese institutions have restored their role lost throughout 16 years of bloody conflict. This conflict wreaked havoc on Lebanon, and was about to eliminate it.

Syria's concern for consolidating security and spreading peace throughout Lebanon, as well as its interest in fraternal cohesion among the Lebanese citizens, was the greatest factor that prompted Syria to confront the sedition fomented to set Lebanon ablaze in order to peddle the conspiracy against Lebanon's land and people.

No doubt, had it not been for President Hafiz al-Asad's foresight and deep appreciation of the imminent threat to Lebanon and the fate awaiting it, Lebanon would have turned into disputing statelets and warring factioins that only know the language of fighting as a means of dialogue.

Out of a sense of pan-Arab and historic responsibility, Syria took the initiative and ended this devastating bloody conflict, willingly shouldering this burden with an absolute readiness to sacrifice in order to spare the blood of brothers—the sons of the one homeland—and safeguard Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty, as well as fill any crack through which the conspiracy to divide Lebanon might slip into.

Syria was delighted by the success of the al-Ta'if conference in healing the rift and reuniting Lebanon. Syria was even more delighted by the greater success in implementing what was agreed on in al-Ta'if, in the legitimate Lebanese authority's resumption of control over various Lebanese areas, and in the Lebanese institutions' role in healing the psychological rift caused by the internecine fighting and rebuilding what was destroyed by this fighting.

During the phase Lebanon is experiencing after emerging from its ordeal, and while Lebanon seeks to regain its entire well-being, it may not be strange to have differences in opinion, because this is natural. Differences in opinion do not end amity as long as the objective is the same, and as long as Lebanon's interest is the ultimate goal.

It is clear that the feeling of those entrusted with safeguarding Lebanon's interest—who are assuming top responsibility—is still unified, and that their interpretations and views are brought closer by their conviction that serving Lebanon and entrenching stability and security throughout the country is a top priority. Nothing can undermine the sanctity of this top priority.

President Hafiz al-Asad referred to this fact in his statements to the Cairo-based newspaper AL-AHRAM. He said: I believe that the differences in views among the Lebanese officials are not wide, and are not too important to cause deep problems. His excellency added: Discussing any matters between brothers is different from holding negotiations. To me, these things happen, and Lebanon is all right. Naturally, those who do not want this situation wish the worst thing would happen.

Certainly, the officials and national forces in Lebanon are well aware of the bad intentions harbored against Lebanon, and which are awaiting an opportunity to unveil themselves. Consequently, they are aware that their cohesion is the best guarantee to protect Lebanon and make the evil schemes of villains backfire on them. They also realize that under no circumstances will Syria allow Lebanon to be harmed or permit Lebanon's security and stability to be undermined. Lebanon can thus restore its position and lay the foundations of its future.

The links, deep roots, and unified destiny between the twin countries, Syria and Lebanon, are everlasting like the land between them, and are as firmly entrenched as the joint mountains which inseparably link both countries.

Criticism by Arabic Press Viewed

JN1610112495 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 14 Sep 95 p 8

["People's Talk" column by Bassam Ja'arah: "Dialogue Backed by Facts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To continue the dialogue we began several days ago on the attitude of certain Arabic papers in the West toward Syria and the their continuous attempts to distort the facts about the Syrian economy and its progress, we should affirm that dialogue is desirable, provided it rises to the level of the major issues it tackles. Dialogue does not mean distorting facts?

We are not talking here about different viewpoints on this or that issue, or the course which is being pursued by Syria, but about specific, tangible material facts which do not require any further effort and interpretation, or tolerate any misunderstanding and conjecture. We can, for instance, differ on a number of economic measures and general policies, despite our full conviction about their soundness from the results they have achieved, but we cannot in any way be convinced of the good will of those who say that only 30 percent of the projects established under Investment Law No. 10 have been implemented. We cannot also be convinced of the good will of those who magnify Syria's debts, making them equal to those of neighboring and other states, which obtain vast foreign aid and still groan under the burden of debts. Moreover, we cannot be convinced of the good will of those who speak about Suq al-Hamidiyah [an old covered market whose narrow streets lead to the historical Omayyad Mosque in Damascus] as one paper has done, although the whole world knows from actual experience the good nature of the Syrian people, and the fact that there is more security in Syria today than in any other industrial or developing country in the world. In fact, those who have visited Damascus and other Syrian towns have spoken with great admiration about the security, safety, and stability enjoyed by Syrians under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

In Damascus, as in the other Syrian towns, people are not frightened by the kind of violence we see in the advanced industrial countries and some of the developing countries. In Damascus as in other Syrian towns, a child or a woman, and in fact any individual, whether an Arab or a foreigner, can roam the streets and stay out late at night without being bothered.

We are talking here about the continuous comprehensive and even progress, which Syria has achieved in all fields, and we have the facts to prove that. But, when these facts are distorted, the issue is no longer one of lack of understanding, but of hearts that are filled with envy. Is it not so?

Damascus, Europe Discuss Dec 95 'Business Week'

JN1610103995 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 20 Sep 95 P 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — A news conference held at the Damascus Chamber of Commerce yesterday was devoted to discussing the Syrian-European Business Week, which will be held in early December 1995. The news conference was attended by Dr. Ratib al-Shallah, president of the Union of Syrian Chambers of Commerce; M. Roget Hano, representative of the organizing firm, KOM; the commercial attaches at the German, Belgian, and French embassies; and several businessmen and journalists. Dr. al-Shallah explained the significance of the event in strengthening the ties of cooperation between Syrian and European businessmen. He pointed out that the representatives of 43 European firms from Germany, France, and Belgium will attend the event in Damascus and Aleppo.

M. Hano announced that the European Mission has prepared a program called Med-Enterprise which is aimed at strengthening cooperation between European and Syrian firms and that the Mission has selected Syria as a venue after noticing that it has made much progress on the path of open-door economic policy.

Al-Shar' in Cartagena for Nonaligned Meetings

JN1610181195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Colombia—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in the Colombian city of Cartagena yesterday evening, Colombia time, to take part in the preparatory meeting of the Nonaligned foreign ministers prior to the Nonaligned Movement's 11th summit, which will be held 18-20 October.

The foreign ministers' meeting will begin this morning, Colombia time, and will last two days.

At the senior officials' meeting held 14-15 October, Syria was elected summit deputy chairman.

Afghanistan

Explosion Wounds 22 Pakistani Officers in Herat

LD1310191895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports received by BAKHTAR, as a result of an explosion in a military headquarters in Herat City, 22 Pakistani officers were wounded.

Another explosion which occurred at the same time in the headquarters of the security command, [words indistinct]. No reports of casualties have yet been received. Those officers who had been giving instructions to the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] Taleban and had been controlling the affairs in Herat are among the military men who were killed in Herat City. It is not yet clear whether [Pakistani] Colonel Amam is among those killed.

Masjedi Khan, acting governor of Ghowr, reports that the mojahedin in this Province, in their advance towards Herat City, achieved victories yesterday. Several days ago reports were also received on the liberation of Obe and Koshk districts as well as important points in Seyahoshan region in which it was also stated that the Taleban group cannot freely move in Herat City and are stuck in the military headquarters fearing imminent attacks by the mojahedin.

Radio Reports Taleban Attack, Pakistan's Involvement

LD1410164195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic army forces inflicted heavy loss of life on the Taleban last night. A Defense Ministry source told a Bakhtar correspondent that last night the Taleban groups backed by armored vehicles and commanded by Pakistani military officers attacked the southern defense line. The Islamic army forces repulsed the militia attack by putting up a heroic defense, killing 60 of their men, and setting a number of their armored vehicles on fire. Documents obtained prove the direct involvement of the Pakistani military officers. Right now the dead bodies of 10 Pakistanis are lying in a hospital in Lowgar and the dead body of one of them is lying in the direction of Chahar Asiab. As many as five Pakistanis have been taken prisoner by the Islamic army. The Islamic army's air force heavily bombarded militia positions last night and fired with heavy weapons on the Taleban, inflicting heavy losses on them.

The Islamic army forces smashed the Taleban positions in an ambush in the south of Kabul this afternoon. Islamic army helicopter gunships fired on the fleeing armored vehicles of the Taleban, disrupting their convoy and killing dozens of the militia.

Radio Attacks Interference by 'Pakistani Circles'

LD1310214695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Unattributed BAKHTAR commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Decisive blows by the mojahedin on the invaders in the south of Kabul have disproved the Pakistan Government's malicious reports and wishful thinking about the Taleban approaching Kabul.

The BAKHTAR commentator writes: The Taleban's invasion of the Islamic State of Afghanistan's Army defensive lines have falsely excited self-interested Pakistani circles. While the mojahedin have cleared the hills of Reshkhor and Khairabad of the Taleban group, in Pakistan the people's ears were bombarded by disinformation on Taleban advances.

The FRONTIER POST newspaper in its incorrect reports writes and alleges the ISI [Pakistan Inter-Services Intelligence] militia have approached Darolaman and Pol-e Artal [in the center of Kabul city] and the transfer of power would take place in accordance with an understanding plan.

The Afghanistan and world's people are witnesses to the fact that the Islamic forces of Afghanistan and other mojahedin have given an unforgettable lesson to those who refuse to know the power of "understanding." The expression of collaboration with the aggressors and foreign mercenaries is completely rejected by the people of Afghanistan.

The ISI militia have sustained unprecedented losses during the past two days. This proves the fact that Kabul, the capital of the Islamic State, is defending itself with courage. What is mentioned in the FRONTIER POST is "a previously arranged plan," once again exposing the anti-Afghan intention of the self-interested Pakistan circles vis-a-vis the current situation in Afghanistan. This motivates a general uprising against the aggressors. On the other hand, the strength of the Islamic Army and the mojahedin against the aggressors has been completely revealed. In having the wishful thinking of closing in on Kabul, the aggressors are facing shameful defeats in various corners of the country.

Yesterday, one of the major districts of Herat was cleared of the Taleban group. Merely defending the city of Kabul has no meaning for the Afghans, they have given themselves the objective of clearing the whole country of the Pakistani mercenaries as a lofty Islamic and Afghani objective.

The history of the past three years of fighting, which in reality has been a three-year jihad against foreign intervention, reveals the fact that no aggressor who has been assigned from abroad to offer hostility to the people of Afghanistan has ever attained his wicked goal.

The ISI group, which has aroused the growing anger of the nation vis-a-vis their mercenary deeds, should know that they will soon burn in the fire of the people's anger; their master's propaganda gesture in saying that the Taleban are approaching Kabul will not cure their pain and they will have no better future than any other Pakistani mercenaries.

Taleban Protests to Iran on Interference in Herat

LD1610175795 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0240 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Taleban spokesman in Herat has protested to Iran on its interference during the fighting in Herat. Taleban spokesman Mulla Nasrollah said that he summoned Iran's General Counsel in Herat to his office and told him that fighting against the Taleban is war against the whole Islamic world. Nasrollah added that he emphasized that the General Counsel should convey the Taleban's protest to Khamene'i, Iran's religious leader, and President Rafsanjani of Iran.

Three Taleban Planes, Helicopter Said Shot Down

LD1610164195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three Taleban planes were shot down recently. Reports reaching BAKHTAR say the three Taleban warplanes were hit in Maydan Shahr and came down in Ghazni Province. There is no precise information about the fate of the pilots. Similarly, a Taleban helicopter was shot down by the Air Force. The helicopter was carrying a number of senior Taleban officers.

Six Said Killed in Downed Helicopter

BK1610165095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1636 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct 16 (AFP) — Six people were killed Monday [16 October] when forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani shot down a helicopter operated by the Taleban Islamic militia in the western province of Herat, the state-run radio Kabul reported.

The broadcast monitored here said the helicopter was carrying senior Taleban officials.

The radio, controlled by Rabbani loyalists, did not specify how and in which area of Herat the helicopter was shot down.

The Taleban captured Herat on September 5.

The Afghan Government Sunday said a group of pro-Rabbani mojahedin recaptured some area in the province close to the Iranian border.

The Taleban denied the claim and Afghan sources in Iran said the weekend attack aimed at recapturing Herat was repulsed.

Opposition Groups Discuss Alliance Against Kabul

LD1610174395 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0240 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The High Coordination Council, the Council of the East [Afghanistan], and the Taleban are holding talks on the formation of a united front against the Kabul administration. A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent in Jalalabad reports that a Taleban delegation on board a military helicopter arrived in Jalalabad yesterday to hold talks with the High Coordination Council and the Council of the East about the formation of a united front against the Kabul administration. The report adds that the Taleban is asking the High Coordination Council to put an end to its policy of neutrality in the current situation and to make its stance clear.

The correspondent writes: There is a strong possibility that the Council of the East will support the Taleban movement against the Kabul administration by putting an end to its neutrality. No details have been revealed about the talks but the matter is being discussed vigorously.

Rabbani Team Tries To Secure Hezb-e Eslami Support

LD1610184095 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0240 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Kabul administration delegation arrived in Jalalabad yesterday to hold talks with the Council of East [Afghanistan] and Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]. A source of the Nangarhar jihadi council told a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent that a Kabul administration delegation headed by Mohammad Sadeq Chakari, minister of borders [title as heard], had arrived in Jalalabad for talks with leaders of Hezb-e Eslami and the Council of East. The source said that Chakari asked Hezb-e Eslami and the Council of East to assist the Kabul administration against the Taleban movement. Quoting the source, our correspondent says that so far the leaders of Hezb-e Eslami and the Council of East have not responded positively to the Kabul administration's request. However, political observers believe that henceforth no-one will assist the Rabbani's sectarist regime because the leaders of the Kabul administration never make their promises good.

UNHCR To Continue Activities in Kabul

LD1510202495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, met [name indistinct], head of UNHCR, [as heard] in his office this morning. During the meeting the two sides had a conversation on issues of interest and exchanged views. During the meeting the UNHCR head said that the recent fighting would have no negative impact on the UN's humanitarian activities in Kabul. A Ministry of Foreign Affairs source said despite the hostile propaganda by the opponents and their unsuccessful attacks on Kabul, the diplomatic missions, the UN offices and nongovernmental organizations continued their activities normally.

Bangladesh

Daily Favors U.S. Idea for Solution to Crisis

BK1610120495 Dhaka THE MORNING SUN in English 11 Oct 95 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Interest in Bangladesh"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The fact that the United States has no particular interest in Bangladesh, as she has in Pakistan or Iran, for example, is well known. Because of their geo-political location Pakistan and Iran hold immense interest for the United States.

Geo-political interest apart, the Americans are interested to see democratic order function smoothly and peacefully in this country. They want democracy to find firm root in the soil of Bangladesh. It is precisely for this reason that they want democratic institutions remain alive and human rights and civil liberty remain in force. The United States seek early resolution of the current political crisis afflicting Bangladesh so that democratic dispensation stabilize in this country.

But the United States has no prescription as such for solution of the current crisis in Bangladesh, nor does she want to advance any suggestion to help resolve the problem facing this country. In fact, the United States want the parties concerned sit across the table and negotiate a settlement of the problem through dialogue and discussion.

It is through dialogue and discussion that apparently insoluble problems of the contemporary world have been solved. One can cite numerous examples in support of this contention. It is difficult to believe that political problem facing this country cannot be resolved peacefully through discussion.

For reaching a negotiated solution of the problem, such as the one facing Bangladesh, what is necessary is political will and tolerance of each other's point of view. But unfortunately our political leaders have everything except political will and political tolerance.

The political standoff facing the country today would have been resolved long ago if both the government and the opposition had demonstrated little bit of tolerance and sincere will to sit and discuss the problem.

The most unfortunate part of our political history is lack of maturity in tackling the chronic problems of the country. In the name of caretaker government political instability exists which is proving hazardous for the economy. The connotation of democracy must be fully understood by the political leaders. They cannot afford to linger the political deadlock. Keeping aloft the national interest they must show flexibility in their approach and resolve the crisis. At this juncture consensus on all national issues is imperative without which the nation will continue to suffer.

We, therefore, urge both sides of the dispute to renounce their confrontational politics and return to the negotiating table and make sincere effort at a negotiated solution of the problem.

Zia Invites Opposition for Talks To End Crisis

BK1510091095 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has called upon the opposition parties to hold discussions for resolving the political crisis in the country. She was addressing a big public meeting at the Nachol Degree College ground in Japai Nawabganj District this afternoon. The prime minister said the discussion may take place at her residence, office, or in parliament. Referring to the proposed sit-in program in front of her residence by the opposition, she said there is no need for such a program; rather, she said, the opposition leader can sit inside her residence to resolve the crisis created by themselves.

Referring to frequent hartal [strike] calls by the opposition, the prime minister said the people of the country now want development not hartal. She said hartals hamper the pace of development by keeping the people inside their homes. About the recent floods in the northern districts, the prime minister said dispatch of relief materials is being hampered due to hartal. She said we established democracy and now it is the time for achieving self-sufficiency in every field for the welfare of the toiling masses.

Referring to the natural disaster in 1991, last year's drought, and recurrent floods this year, the prime minister said her government has been facing these calamities from its own resources. The government took foreign assistance only in 1991 since its inception. Our special representative says thousands of people from far-flung areas thronged the meeting venue to hear the prime minister. [passage omitted]

One Said Killed on First Day of Opposition Strike

BK1610162595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first day of the opposition-called 96-hour strike passed peacefully in the country today. However, one person in Brahmanbaria was killed due to a bullet wound. Although private vehicles were off the road in the capital, however, some rickshas were seen plying the roads. All government, semigovernment and autonomous offices remained open, but attendance was sparse. Banks and financial establishments were open. Work was normal in [word indistinct] factories and industrial units at Bangladesh Telecom Industries Corporation, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industry Corporation, and Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation. Train services throughout the country, including those connecting the flood-hit northern districts, were disrupted due to barricades set up by strike organizers in at least 12 places throughout the country. Picketers also threw stones at Ekata Express and Mahua Express trains in Jaidevpur. Picketers did not allow any trains to leave Khulna station. Ferry service at Dhaka Sadarghat was normal. Bangladesh Biman airlines sources said that nearly all domestic and international flights operated on schedule, however, two domestic flights were canceled in the evening.

BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA citing deputy commissioner of Brahmanbaria reports that Sheikh Shahnawaz, a student of Brahmanbaria College was killed while returning home after a demonstration in support of the strike. He was rushed to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital where he underwent surgery. Later, he was transferred to Dhaka [word indistinct] Hospital. He died at Narsinghdi on the way to Dhaka. Following his death, the supporters of the strike set fire to the district agricultural office, a local cinema house and the office of the Brahmanbaria Jatiyabadi Sramik Dal [labor organization]. However, the fire was brought under control.

Party Leader Urges End to Strike

BK1710030895 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0100 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, acting secretary general of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and minister for food and agriculture, has again called upon the opposition parties to call off their current strike in consideration of the hardship of the people.

During informal talks with a group of journalists in Dhaka yesterday, he expressed the hope that the opposition parties will call off their strike and come forward with an open mind for holding talks with a view to find a solution of the prevailing stalemate. The minister said that his party still believes that it is possible to resolve the crisis and ensure free and fair polls in accordance with the constitutional framework as proposed by the prime minister. The acting secretary general said that the distribution of relief materials to the flood-hit northern region of the country will be severely affected if the strike continues.

Commentary Addresses Expansion of Ties With Iran

BK1310123595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 12 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The similar religious faith and cultural traditions of Bangladesh and Iran date back several hundred years and there have been contacts between the peoples of the two countries for a very long time. This has led to the development of common values and to efforts to achieve a common goal. Naturally, for historic reasons, the relationship between the two countries has become very close. This ancient bond has remained unfaded despite the passage of time. The present governments in Dhaka and Tehran simply need to add a new dimension to it. Undoubtedly, efforts toward this are currently being made. An auspicious start to this task has been made with the current visit of Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Bangladesh. The warm fraternal feelings that the Bangladeshis have for their Iranian brothers have been witnessed by the Iranian leader and members of his entourage. A hearty welcome was accorded to President Rafsanjani and his spouse. This welcome has exceeded to some extent the formalities related to a state-visit. The Iranian leader was so impressed by the expression of the spontaneous cordiality of the people that he came out of the car several times to convey his greetings to the assembled people.

The radiance of spirit in the relationship between Iran and Bangladesh was reflected through the official talks held between the two countries in Dhaka yesterday. During the talks, both President Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia agreed to strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries. Apart from expressing their desire for expanding ties, both sides also identified the sectors for promoting bilateral cooperation. The two countries reached a consensus on long-term cooperation for the exploration of oil and gas in Bangladesh. Besides this, the businessmen of Iran and Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Chittagong for taking up joint projects on a liquefied petroleum gas and oil refinery, and also for the setting up of cement factory. Efforts are being made for expanding cooperation in other important sectors like investment, telecommunications, agriculture, environment, and trade. In the next meeting of the Iran-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission to be held in Tehran in November, the two countries will take effective measures to expand this type of cooperation. Increased contacts between the businessmen of the two countries will give a new impetus in the field of trade and investment.

In the political sphere, Iran and Bangladesh have taken a decision to jointly contribute to strengthening the unity of Muslim countries. The two countries have reiterated their common stand relating to the establishment of peace in the Balkan region and safeguarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia. President Rafsanjani strongly supported the call given by Khaleda Zia to hold a special summit meeting of the heads of governments and states of the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to discuss the Bosnian issue. Bangladesh has supported the role played by Iran on the issues of Afghanistan and [?Tajikistan].

The cordial bonds of friendship between Iran and Bangladesh will be further strengthened as a result of the trade and transit agreement signed between the officials of Dhaka and Tehran. Khaleda Zia said Muslims are becoming victims of repression in different parts of the world as they want to establish their [word indistinct] political rights. President Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia have agreed to support the just struggle of these Muslim groups so that they can establish their legitimate rights.

India

Pakistan Arrest of Officers Said Aimed at U.S.

BK1710111695 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Commentary by Suresh Awasthi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arrest of 36 Army officers in Pakistan on suspicion of planning an Islamic revolution is bound to have uncertain domestic repercussions because of the Army's significant presence in Pakistani politics. The Army's role in Pakistan is known from the fact that its officers have ruled the country for 25 of its 48 years of existence. The present prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, herself had to quit in 1990 when she tried to bring down the high-profile army generals under her control. Her own father, later prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, was overthrown by General Ziaul Haq and was later sentenced to death on the charges of conniving for the murder of a Pakistani leader. The nexus between the Army and the Muslim fundamentalists in Pakistan is well known. The fundamentalists are playing a key role even today. They were active when Pakistan was ruled by army generals. The late General Mohammad Ziaul Haq was a staunch supporters of the fundamentalists. During his 11 years old regime, General Zia introduced harsh Islamic laws, which gave encouragement to Muslim fundamentalists. The result has been that the politicians and the political parties in Pakistan had always been playing a second fiddle to the Muslim fundamentalists-Army nexus. For a country which was created on the basis of religion, the nexus between the Army and the fundamentalists is unlikely to allow itself to loosen. Elected governments in Pakistan survive only so long as the military allows them to do so.

The arrest of nearly 40 officers of the Army is regarded as a calculated move of the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, to kill two birds with one stone — the Army and the fundamentalists. Ever since she entered politics, Benazir has not been very comfortable with either of the two groups. During her first election in 1988, fatwas [Islamic legal rulings] were issued by maulvis [religious scholars] during her campaign and after her victory. The maulvis held that a woman cannot become head of an Islamic state. And, after her victory she could be sworn in only after she agreed to certain conditions laid down by the Army. These included that she will keep General Aslam Beg as army chief for three years and also till the Afghan conflict was resolved, besides returning General Hamid Gul as the ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence] chief and General Sahabzada Yaqub Khan as foreign minister. When she dithered and tried to impose herself on the army officers, she was removed by the then president. During her second inning, she seem to have developed a more agreeable balance between the ruling troika consisting of the president, the prime minister, and chief of the army staff.

The Army remains a critical factor in the political equation, despite the shift in American policy toward encouraging democracy in Pakistan. This has made it essential for the military establishment to play a less overt political role. Thus, the report of a conspiracy to bring about an Islamic revolution in Pakistan seems to be an exaggeration. The deliberate disclosure of the arrest of these army officers is widely seen as an attempt by the Benazir Bhutto government to project Pakistan as a moderate Islamic state in the eyes of America where she is going soon to meet President Clinton. She wants to present herself as a leader of the anti-fundamentalist movement in the eyes of the Western world. Perhaps, this was the cause which discredited her among the large number of Pakistanis and eventually the army officers. While her move against some fundamentalists gladdened the hearts of Western leaders, it annoyed certain army officers who were the advocates of Islamic fundamentalism which, they believe, was the cause of the creation of Pakistan.

Commerce Minister Views Trade Ties With Russia

BK1710024695 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is no trade dispute between India and Russia. This was stated by the commerce minister while talking to newspersons in New Delhi today. Mr. Chidambaram said that both sides have expressed the desire to abide by the 1993 Indo-Russia agreement on debt repayment. The 1993 agreement, which resolved the vexed issue of the 11 billion ruble repayment by India to the erstwhile Soviet Union, was signed two years ago during the visit of the Russian President Boris Yeltsin to New Delhi. According to the agreement, India would make an annual repayment of 3,000 crore rupees to Russia toward servicing its ruble credit obligation, and the repayment is to be made by export of Indian goods.

Commentary Addresses Russian Commission Meeting

BK1410113895 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 14 Oct 95

[Commentary by T.V. Venkatachalam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The meeting of the India-Russian Joint Commission on trade, economic, technical and cultural cooperation held in New Delhi was marked by a number of positive decisions to step up cooperation between the two countries. India's External Affairs Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Yuriy Yarov, who are co-chairmen of the commission, expressed happiness at the outcome of the four-day meeting of the commission when they spoke to the press on Thursday [12 October]. They underlined the fact that India-Russian trade is set to cross 50 billion-rupee mark in 1995-96 exceeding the expectations with which the high target was set two years ago.

The Joint Commission meeting, the second after it was set up to boost cooperation between India and Russia after the break up of the Soviet Union, covered a wide field. The meeting involved active interaction with the Indian ministries of commerce, industry, steel, power, and culture. The two-way trade between the two countries was at 23 billion rupees in 1993-94. In the last financial year, it climbed to over 40 billion rupees, and in the first quarter of the current year, it is estimated to have totalled 15 billion rupees. The growth of India-Russian economic cooperation is assisted by the utilization of the proceeds of the rupee-ruble arrangement under which Russia has large amounts to spend on buying goods and services from India. The agreement reached in 1993 provided with the repayment in rupees of the 9,871 million rubles, which India owed to erstwhile Soviet Union. The Russian side envisages that in 1995, they would spend 12.5 billion on purchases and 4 billion on investments in India. According to Mr. Yarov, apart from traditional items like tea, tobacco, and soya bean, Russia would like to import high-technology products, including computers, to be covered by rupee purchase. The utilization of the rupee fund in joint ventures will begin from next year.

The other decisions, which were taken during the Joint Commission meeting, included the establishment of shipping links between Indian ports and the Russia Black Sea port of Novorssiysk, opening of wholly owned subsidiaries in Russia by the State Bank of India, the Exim Bank, and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India. It had also been decided to constitute the 10th working group under the Joint Commission to facilitate trade in the pharmaceutical sector. Another decision was to allocate the equivalent of $30 million from the debt payment for purchase of medicines and other pharmaceutical products from India for distribution among the victims of Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster which took place 9 years ago. Some other procedural problems relating to trade in tobacco and honoring of bank guarantees had also been sorted out. In the discussion, it was recognized that India-Russian economic cooperation would also be helpful in promoting business relations with other CIS countries which were formerly part of the Soviet Union.

At the cultural level, it was decided to hold a festival of Russia in India in December this year. An Indian festival will be organized in Moscow next year.

Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Yarov utilized the occasion of this visit for a general review of bilateral relations between the two countries. During his meeting with the prime minister, Mr.P.V. Narasimha Rao, he reiterated that Russia's ties with India were long and deep and strong bilateral relationship was not aimed against any other country. At the same time, Mr. Yarov declared that Russia would not conclude any agreement with Pakistan that went against the interest of India. In fact, India-Russian relations have not only helped themselves to promote good will among the people of the two countries, it has also helped in solving problems in many parts of the world.

Rao Leaves for 3-Nation Visit, NAM Meeting

BK1510095395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, left New Delhi for Cairo this afternoon on a 12-day three-nation visit. His council of ministers; the deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha, Dr. Najma Heptullah; lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr. P.K. Dave; and other dignitaries were present at the airport.

After a two-day visit to Egypt, Mr. Rao will proceed to Cartagena, Colombia, to attend the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit and later to New York to take part in the special commemorative meeting of the UN General Assembly, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

In Cairo, Mr. Rao will hold one-to-one talks with the Egyptian president, Mr. Husni Mubarak, and also participate in delegation- level discussions. New Delhi and Cairo will sign an agreement on combating terrorism. Our correspondent reports that it is for the first time that India is entering into an agreement on combating terrorism with an Arab country. It reflects the growing global resolve to check the menace. It may be recalled that Mr. Mubarak escaped a terrorist attempt on his life in Addis Ababa recently.

Two other agreements on science and technology and information will also be signed during the visit. Mr. Rao and Mr. Mubarak are likely to deliberate the issue concerning the developing countries and the West Asia peace process, of which India is a strong supporter.

Rao Calls For NAM Shift From Politics to Economics

BK1610101295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has called for a major shift in the 113-member Nonaligned Movement [NAM] from politics to economics to make it more relevant in the post-Cold War era. In an interview to a Colombian daily, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the priorities have undergone a change in the post-Cold War period. Mr. Rao said that earlier, decolonization was the main subject of concern for the movement. Now the main focus and priorities are economic progress, social justice, nuclear disarmament, and creation of a peaceful situation in the world — a world without war.

The three-day NAM summit begins in Cartagena on Wednesday [18 October]. About 50 heads of state and government are likely to attend the 11th summit. Meanwhile, foreign ministers of the NAM countries began their deliberations in Cartagena today to finalize the agenda and draft declaration to be adopted at its conclusion. The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, held bilateral discussions with some of his counterparts. According to official sources, India — one of the founders of the NAM — will continue to play a catalytic role at the summit to build a consensus on crucial areas of concern for the Third World.

Iran

Khamene'i: Muslims Must Oppose Israeli Occupation

LD1710110295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0743 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Speech by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, in Babol — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] With the victory of the Islamic revolution and the coming to power of the Islamic government, foreign interference was brought to an end. In the army, in oil, in government, in politics, in culture. Whatever was used by foreigners to impose their own presence was taken away from them. Only a few months after the victory of the Islamic revolution, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution against the Islamic revolution. Some people think that, if the U.S. Senate rambles on about imposing economic sanctions on Iran and makes hostile proposals, this is a new thing. This is not new. From the beginning of the victory of the revolution, the ruling system in the United States has been confronting and battling against

Iran, the Iranian nation, the Iranian revolution, the system of the Islamic republic, the interests of the people. And the reason is the one I mentioned: Their interference [in Iran] was brought to an end.

Similar to the United States in this kind of hostility and meanness was the government of Britain. It is the same today: Britain, the old man of colonialism, with a history of experience in Iran, which did whatever it liked in this country for many years. Their interference was brought to an end. Well, these things lead to hostility.

Today, some people say: Why do you keep looking for enemies? Why do you provoke the United States against yourself and make it angry? We are not looking for enemies. They were against the interests of the Iranian nation from the start. From the start they wanted to stake a claim for themselves in the interests of the Iranian nation. The kind of government they like in Iran is one that leaves their hands open for them to come and take whatever they like from the wealth of this nation. If a system and a government stands up to them, they become its enemy. If someone wants the United States not to be his enemy, he must open the gates of Iran and say: Please come in and take whatever you like. Then they would be happy.

This is Satan. From the beginning of the Koran to the end, wherever Satan is mentioned, it refers to a hostile enmity with human interests, with the world of humanity, with the fate of humanity and with any system of justice. Today, you can see the similarity between all these references [in the Koran] and arrogance and all the characteristics of the U.S. government. [crowd chants "Death to America" and "Death to Israel"]

They complain, saying: Why is Iran opposed to the Middle East peace process? What is called the peace process in the Middle East is, as far as we are concerned, the process of treachery; the process of a humiliating and treacherous compromise. This is not peace. They have evicted a nation from its home, displaced it from its country and now they want to obtain its signature as well.

Unfortunately, we cannot take part among the ranks of battle and struggle against that aggressive enemy, because we are far away. We are not dutybound, according to Islamic commands, to go to distant frontiers to take part in fighting and jihad. However, if we were close, it would be our duty to take part in the defense. In this case, we cannot.

In any way they can, Muslims must oppose this occupation, this enmity, this capture and usurpation of Islamic territory. Many do not do so. The Islamic Republic of Iran does. The Iranian nation makes clear its opposition. Of course, other nations, too, would oppose if their governments did not prevent and stop them. [live relay interrupted at 0809 GMT by announcer stating that direct link with Babol must be broken off because of noon prayer program]

Commentary Views Nation of Islam March in U.S.

NC1710092895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0445 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] About 2 million black Americans organized a march in front of the Capitol in Washington yesterday and voiced their protest against racial discrimination. They emphasized the uniformity of the ethnic Africans in displaying their dire living conditions and in safeguarding their religious, moral, and family values. This historic march was called for and organized by Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam movement. Despite the extensive, coordinated, but discordant propaganda by the U.S. mass media against the Nation of Islam leader, the march received an unprecedented welcome by black Americans, both Muslim and Christian. More than 11,000 buses carried people from all over the United States to Washington and 80 black leaders spoke at the march. The participants, who displayed unity among blacks, expressed their support for creating trust among blacks, removing racial discrimination, and strengthening family values.

This day marks the beginning of the anti-slavery campaign in the United States. Although this great concept was defeated at one time, it finally yielded results and ended slavery in the United States. However, despite this, the roots of racial discrimination, inequality, and the exploitation of blacks in U.S. society have remained. Over the past decades, protest movements by blacks against racial discrimination—the biggest problem in U.S. society—were organized. Most noted protests were the black civil rights' movement in the 1960's led by Martin Luther King, and the riots three years ago by blacks in Los Angeles protesting racial discrimination by whites and especially the racist police of that country. Bill Clinton's remarks yesterday and his call for U.S. police and judges to refrain from discriminating against the various races proves racism is a problem.

Although yesterday's march was planned, everyone believed that only a few thousand would participate. However, about 1.5 to 2 million people answering the call by the Nation of Islam leader surprised the world's reporters and mass media. The marchers, who chanted slogans of "God is great," and "There is only one God and He is Allah," expressed their aversion toward the disintegration of social conditions in the United States today and called on the people to turn to monotheism. Louis Farrakhan, who spoke at this great gathering, commented on why such a large crowd had gathered in Washington: We are not here to tear the United States down. The United States is tearing itself down. We are here to solve our own problems.

The truth is that the U.S. society is disintegrating, and only Islam and the monotheistic religions can save this crisis-stricken society. Throughout history, Islam and its slogan against discrimination among the various races, for the equality of all human beings, and for safeguarding man's moral values has been the forerunner in the liberation of oppressed men. Its invigorating teachings have helped to spread this monotheistic religion in all parts of the world, especially among African blacks. This is why Islam is so warmly welcomed by the deprived of the world, especially by black Americans.

Yesterday's demonstrations in Washington showed that Islam is quickly becoming the major religion of black Americans.

U.S. Applicants Said Banned From Oil Conference

LD1610171295 Tehran IRNA in English
1656 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Oct. 14, IRNA — U.S. firms applying to attend November's oil projects conference in Tehran have been rejected from more than 120 international companies seeking to qualify.

An Iranian official quoted by PETROLEUM ARGUS weekly was said to have reported between 40 and 50 international firms had prequalified for Iran's 'buy-back' contracts being launched at the conference on November 11-14, but that U.S. applicants had been rejected.

The absence of U.S. companies has made competition unique among firms participating from Europe, Asia and other parts of the American continent.

Oil minister Golamreza Aqazadeh said in an interview with IRNA last week that 123 foreign firms were bidding for 10 major oil projects, including U.S. firms in spite of President Clinton's unilateral trade ban.

An official from the national Iranian oil company quoted by PETROLEUM ARGUS declined to name the U.S. oil firms and engineering contractors but said that all had been rejected and none had been sent prequalification documents.

The 10 ventures are being offered to international contractors on the basis of arranging their own finance and being repaid in production from the completed projects.

Earlier reports suggested that some firms were looking to form consortiums tie up with a trading house to combine engineering and financial skills.

The announcement of the project conference follows the success of total of France in winning the development of Sirri e and a oilfields in July in the first 'buy-back' upstream deal awarded since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Long standing plans to develop the offshore south Pars gas fields were pushed forward last month, when a design contract was awarded to a UK engineer, John Brown, to do initial planning of the first phase. The project is based on a direct finance by Iran.

Such great deals have paved the way for advancing foreign cooperation interest, which run contrary to the imposition of a unilateral U.S. trade embargo declared in early June. In addition, it is a warning to American oil firms, which will would be the major losers to European companies and other rivals.

Oil Deal With Kazakhstan Could Break U.S. Embargo

LD0910150895 Tehran IRNA in English
1435 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Oct 9 (IRNA) — Kazakhstan Oil Minister Nurlan Balghymbayev is to visit Tehran this month to discuss an oil swap arrangement in what could be the first deal to poke holes in the U.S. trade ban on Iran.

At an industry conference in Almaty last week, Balghymbayev publicly confirmed that Kazakhstan was involved in oil swap talks with Iran for the export of production from the Tengiz Field being developed in a joint venture with Chevron of the U.S.

He said that an exchange deal was viable and was quoted by the PETROLEUM ARGUS saying that the only issue to agree was on price.

Under the arrangement, crude would be shipped for refining in northern Iran in exchange for Iranian crude delivered in the Persian Gulf for customers of Tengizchevron.

Chevron said last month it was considering applying for a special licence from the U.S. Government under exemptions allowed in President Clinton's trade ban on Iran announced in May.

Currently exports from the Tengiz Field are limited to 60,000 barrels per day [bpd] through Russian pipeline quotas from the landlocked state but Chevron says it can produce more than 90,000 bpd and by 2010 the output should rise to 700,000 bpd.

A similar swap arrangement for the export of early oil from a U.S.-led consortium in Azerbaijan has run into difficulties because of the exclusion of the National Iranian Oil Company from being a full partner owing to political pressure from the White House.

A third clash with the U.S. embargo is also reportedly brewing over Dubai opening negotiations of buying associated gas from Iran's offshore Sirri Oil Fields being developed in a buy-back deal by Total of France.

Production from Dubai's adjacent offshore fields operated by Conoco of the U.S. has been declining and industry reports say they are badly in need of gas reinjection to maintain reservoir pressure.

The particular irony seen by oil analysts here is that Conoco is having to go 'cap-in-hand' through the Dubai Government to buy associated gas after its original contract to develop Sirri Field was cancelled by Clinton's ban.

Foreign Companies Said Ready To Aid in Oil Projects

LD1010133395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, in an interview today with our reporter, announced that 123 foreign oil companies have expressed their readiness to participate in implementing 10 of Iran's big oil projects.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i, the time limit for foreign companies to cooperate in implementing 10 of Iran's big oil projects which were put out to tender, has now expired. What is to happen now and when will these tenders begin to be implemented?

[Aqazadeh-Kho'i] The Second Development Plan stipulates that we should put out to tender 10 major projects through buy-back and to invite domestic and foreign companies to cooperate with us. This is exactly what has taken place and, fortunately, it has been received very well in the sense that, up to now, 123 foreign companies from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Australia, Holland, Britain, Canada, South Korea, Spain, Singapore, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Greece, Malaysia, Austria, and the United States, have asked to participate in this call for tender and have announced that they are ready to cooperate. A number of these companies are international oil companies while others are contracting companies or companies which secure finance. We intend to hold a seminar in Tehran from 20 to 22 November during which we shall place the complete details of these projects at the disposal of these companies. In addition to this, we will stage an exhibition of our domestic capabilities and abilities in the seminar premises so that Iranian contractors, engineers, and advisers can become familiar with foreign companies and exhibit their capabilities. We think that, taking into account the capabilities which have been developed today in the oil industry, we will be able to carry out over 50 percent of the work ourselves, through our own contractors. In this respect, over 20 Iranian companies have so far declared that they are ready to participate in these projects. This is a very good opportunity for these companies to familiarize themselves with the projects and with our domestic capabilities. After the seminar, these companies will announce which of the 10 projects they are ready to take up and they will then be divided into different groups on the basis of the projects in which they will be involved. Negotiations will continue until we achieve the final results. Of course, I must point out here that if we had the financial resources, our oil industry has the domestic capability to carry out all these projects. However, since the Majles has obliged us to retrieve the cost of the investment from the output of these very projects, we need to have the financial resources secured for us by others and we are endeavoring to carry out these projects in a participatory form, Iranians and foreigners taking part together.

[Correspondent] What will be the cost of seeing these projects through and how will it be secured by the foreign parties?

[Aqazadeh-Kho'i] Our own estimate is approximately $7 billion. Of course, this will depend on the total figures arrived at in the proposals that reach us. On the whole, the finance has to be secured from foreign sources and retrieved from the output of the projects. This is similar to the practice we adopted in petrochemicals in the first plan which was very successful. Today, the petrochemical industry is paying back directly all the investment from the first plan.

[Correspondent] Iran's National Oil Company has signed a contract with France's Total Oil Company to expand the oil resources of Sirri Jazireh-ye. Could you please tell us more about this contract.

[Aqazadeh-Kho'i] The Total Company became active after the contract was signed. It opened an office in Iran and its personnel began to arrive. The first thing which had to be done was a seismographical and geophysical scan of the region over Sirri Jazireh-ye's resources.

This operation has started. The work is proceeding in accordance to plan and it is even a little ahead of its timetable.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Oil Minister Says Revenue Above Budget Projections

LD1110121095 Tehran IRNA in English 0819 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA — Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said here Tuesday [10 October] that Iran's oil industry has reached the extent of progress that can add significant amount of hard currency to the country's revenue through exporting equipment, technical expertise and engineering services in the field of oil.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA economic desk, Aqazadeh-Kho'i stated that in the past six months (ending September 22) Iran's oil revenue was dlrs. 915 million more than what had been projected in the budget. Iran's participation in oil and gas projects in Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Vietnam and also winning international biddings were samples of Iran's status at international oil arenas which is being stabilized, he said.

He evaluated the performance of various sections of the oil ministry as "positive" and said several countries are currently seeking for developing oil cooperation with Iran particularly in the field of oil engineering services. Aqazadeh-Kho'i added that Oil Ministry is completely ready and prepared for the export of technical know-how, exploration operations and construction of refineries in those countries.

Given that prior to the U.S. trade sanction on Iran the country had found markets for its oil, therefore, not only Iran had not had any problem in this respect, in fact its oil exports increased in the aftermath of the U.S. sanction, he stressed.

Oil Minister Aqazadeh-Kho'i went on to say that some 123 foreign companies are bidding for 10 major oil projects in Iran due to be put into operation during the second five-year development plan (1995-1999) on a buy-back basis. He added that given the potentials existing in the oil industry currently the Oil Ministry uses rials in its investments instead of hard currencies.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i stated that except for certain cases in which the country had not yet gained access to the required technology, major part of the activities such as contracting in sea and land as well as designing and construction operations are being carried out by domestic specialists, adding that this was the reason for a sharp decline in hard currency expenses.

He said that dlrs. 1.1 million has been earmarked to the Oil Ministry in the current year (started 20 March 1995), adding that rls. 3,500 billion has been allocated to the investments in the oil sector while the budget alloted to petrochemical and gas sectors amounted to rls. 2,500 billion and rls. 1,000 billion respectively.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i said that at present almost all the Iranian oil for the months of Mehr and Aban (Sept. 21-Nov. 21) had been sold in advance and stated that in its new marketing policy the Oil Ministry had found good clients without giving them any concession or discounts. Trade sanctions against Iran did not work and had no negative impact on the country's oil deals. In fact, he added, there had only been a shift in Iran's oil clients.

Iran's oil production potential is currently 4.1 million barrels a day (b/d) which is expected to increase to 4.5 million b/d within the next two years. It is also hoped that the amount could be preserved during the second five-year development plan (1995-1999), he further added.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i described Tehran-Johannesburg oil co-operation as "consolidated" and said that there was presently no problem in the way of bilateral cooperation. He stated that the contract on Iran's oil storage in South Africa had already been inked and would be enforced in a near future.

Referring to the next year operation of Bandar-e 'Abbas refinery, southern Iran, and construction of Asslaviyeh refinery during the second five year plan, he stressed that with the operation of the two refineries not only there would be no need to the import of oil products but dlrs. 700-800 million would be earned annually through the export of oil products.

He further added that through execution of economizing program, gasoline consumption growth which was 6 to 8 percent annually ceased in the current year and gasoline consumption dropped by 2 million litres. Moreover, he said, about dlrs. 300 million was saved in the past five months due to economizing in the consumption of oil products.

Azerbaijan Oil Delegation Pays Official Visit

Arrives for Talks

LD1010194795 Tehran IRNA in English 1933 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Astara, Gilan Prov., Oct. 10, IRNA — A high ranking Azeri delegation comprising

Natik Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan State Oil Company (ASOC), Khoushbakht Yousefzadeh, his deputy for exploration and production, and the ASOC's vice-president in foreign relations, Nazem Suleymanev, arrived overland here Tuesday [10 October].

The Azeri delegation is expected to hold talks on bilateral cooperation with the Iranian Oil Ministry officials in Tehran.

Seeks 'Active Participation' in Projects

LD1110105195 Tehran IRNA in English
1015 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Astara, Gilan Prov., Oct. 11, IRNA — Baku is seeking Iran's active participation in Azerbaijan oil operations, said head of Azerbaijan Oil Company Natik Aliyev here on Tuesday [10 October].

Aliyev who Tuesday arrived in Astara, Gilan Province in northern Iran heading a high-ranking delegation, told IRNA here that Azerbaijan has invited Iranian Oil Ministry's experts to participate in the exploration and exploitation operations in 'Shah Deniz' oil field. According to studies conducted, Shah Deniz field is rich in oil and gas.

On oil cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan, Aliyev said that both Azeri and Iranian specialists are busy in exploitation and drilling operations in Iranian and Azeri coastlines along the Caspian Sea. He also called for expansion of bilateral oil and trade cooperation and execution of contracts already signed in the said fields.

Official Discusses Oil Field Project

LD1110195595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Natik Aliyev, president of the Azerbaijan State Oil Company, met with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i this evening and called for the strengthening of the two country's relations and boosting of oil and economic cooperation. He also called on Iran to participate in a project for the development of the Shah Deniz oil field.

Our country's oil minister emphasized common grounds and expressed the hope that bilateral cooperation would expand using the two countries' existing resources and capabilities.

Agrees To Form Joint Oil, Gas Company

LD1210214995 Tehran IRNA in English
2123 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA — Natik Aliyev, director of state oil company of the Republic of Azerbaijan 'Sukar' said here today Iran had agreed to increase her gasoil import from the Republic of Azerbaijan by 1.5 million tons per year. Previously, Azerbaijan supplied one million tons of gasoil to Iran in exchange for electricity from Iran which it used in Nakhichevan.

The official of Azerbaijan said in an interview with IRNA at the end of his two day visit to Tehran Thursday [12 October] that during his stay here he had discussed topics of mutual interest with the Iranian officials.

Aliyev said that an oil pool had been discovered east of Astara, and predicted that an oil well that was being drilled there would hit oil at the depth of 3,500 meters.

He said that it was decided at the meeting that the Republic of Azerbaijan would prospect for oil independently as it had fifty years of experience and facilities and equipment and supply the oil to Iran.

He also said that Iranian officials were later to announce their view on a proposed formation of an Irano-Azerbaijan oil and gas company for drilling for oil and gas at the Caspian Sea.

Aliyev said Iran was also to announce its decision on its participation, as proposed by Azerbaijan, in developing projects at Shah-Deniz oilfield. He said Iran's participation in that project would involve lower investment than that of Azerbaijan's oil consortium.

Majles Speaker, DPRK Envoy View Ties, Oil Sales

LD1110165795 Tehran IRNA in English
1530 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA — First Vice Speaker of Majles Hasan Rowhani in a meeting with North Korean Ambassador to Tehran Choe Yong-no on Wednesday [11 October] congratulated the people and government of that country on the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Korean Worker's Party (KWP).

Rowhani also voiced satisfaction with the growing relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Referring to the fact that the struggle of freedom loving nations against global arrogance and the United States in particular will end in their ultimate victory, Rowhani urged promotion of all-out relations among all independent countries of the world.

The DPRK ambassador, underlining excellent relations between his country and Iran, expressed Pyongyang's willingness to further expand bilateral economic cooperation and buy more oil from Iran.

Spokesman Denies Claims on Anti-Taleban Attacks

LD1610125495 Tehran IRNA in English
1219 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA — A senior official in the Foreign Ministry strictly denied recent claims by the Taleban faction that Iran has allowed its territory to be used by anti-Taleban Afghan forces to attack the strategic western city of Herat.

In an interview with the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES printed on Monday [16 October] Deputy Foreign Minister for asia-Pacific Affairs, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi added that there has been no shift in Iran's stance towards developments in neighboring Afghanistan.

"Tehran has always advocated the restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan and that its foreign policy with regard to the fighting there is for the establishment of mutual understanding among various Afghan rival factions," Borujerdi said.

He also said that Iran opposes any military moves and desires peace and security to be restored in that country.

The Taleban on Saturday claimed that Iran has allowed its territory to be used by Afghan pro-government forces for launching attacks against its positions in the western province of Herat bordering Iran.

The group further alleged that President Rabbani's forces crossed Iranian borders and opened fire on its positions in Islam Qala and returned to Iran.

The Taleban forces captured Herat, Farah and Nimruz in an stunning offensive last month, all of the cities bordering Iran.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mahmud Mohammadi yesterday denied reports alleging that Afghan government forces have used Iranian territory for liberation of the city of Herat.

The spokesman said the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards Afghanistan is based on restoration of peace and stability to that neighboring country.

He added that Iran is concerned about the continued civil war in Afghanistan and hopes that the ongoing clashes would rapidly be replaced by peace talks so that calm and security may return to afghanistan.

Rebel Taleban gunmen failed to break the Afghan capital's defenses yesterday, but a spokesman claimed the opposition force had captured at least 25 government troops.

For the fifth consecutive day, opposition forces and government soldiers exchanged heavy artillery and rocket fire in the Rishkor hills at Kabul's southern city limits.

One rocket landed in the southern suburb of Karte Se, killing five people and wounding at least 15 others, a hospital official said. The rocket landed outside the Afghan Red Crescent medical dispensary near a crowded market.

Both government and opposition forces have been unable to make any headway in their offencives and counteroffensives.

"The situation of southern Kabul has not changed although there were exchanges of heavy weapons fire," said government spokesman Amrullah, who like many Afghans uses only one name.

Amrullah said, however government troops had moved forward against opposition positions on west of Kabul.

Amrullah said, "we have taken the whole of the Sanglakh valley," of the western district 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Kabul. He added, "we managed to capture the areas we were not in control of just this morning."

Meanwhile, a Taleban spokesman in the northwesten Pakistani city of Peshawar claimed his troops had captured at least 25 government soldiers near Rishkor.

Radio Reports on Port, Marine Accord With Russia

LD1210222295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
2030 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of their first joint port and marine cooperation commission, Iran and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding in Tehran on Thursday [12 October] night.

According a report by the Central News Unit correspondent, the memorandum of understanding was signed by the Islamic Republic of Iran's deputy minister of roads and transport and the managing director of the Ports and Shipping Organization [Mohammad Madad] and the Russian deputy transport minister for marine transport.

The managing director of the Ports and Shipping Organization spoke to our correspondent about the agreement.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Madad, please tell us about the marine cooperation agreement signed between Iran and Russia and also about its effects on the future of the Caspian Sea ports.

[Madad] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. This is in fact the first joint marine transport commission between Iran and Russia. It enjoys a special significance due to the increasing activities of the Caspian Sea littoral states in transit of goods. The agreement is important both for imports, exports and transit.

We discussed all the issues relating to this matter during the session. We discussed marine transport and joint cooperation. The Russian side is asking that we cooperate in the construction of the port of Olya which is one the most important Russian ports. Because the port does not have any of their river problems [as heard], it can be used for the transit of goods throughout the year.

They have also asked us to cooperate in ship building and adjusting of port taxes so that transit of goods can take place on this route.

[Correspondent] When will the agreement come to force?

[Madad] In fact, after the signing of the agreement and after the preliminary stages are through, the agreement comes to force.

[Correspondent] Were there any agreements on passenger transport?

[Madad] Yes. On the transport of passengers we have agreed that the Mirza Kuchek-Khan ship be able to use the route. But they are preparing a suitable terminal at the Astrakhan port so that the port can accept passengers in the future.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Madad] You are welcome. [end recording]

Russian Official Assails Interference in Ties

LD1310090895 Tehran IRNA in English
0848 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov., Oct. 13, IRNA — A senior Russian official Thursday [12 October] said that expansion of relations between Iran and Russia is to the interest of the region and stressed that no country is entitled to interfere in Tehran-Moscow bilateral ties. Governor general of Russia's Astrakhan Province Anatoliy Gozhvin, who made the remark, is currently in this Caspian Sea provincial capital to inspect the exhibition of products of Astrakhan industrial units.

He announced that in order to promote economic cooperation between Astrakhan and Gilan, branches of each country's banks would be opened in the said provinces. Given advanced industries in Astrakhan and economic potentials of the two countries, mutual economic and trade cooperation should be further upgraded, he added.

The exhibition of Astrakhan industrial products is to be opened here on Wednesday. It will be open to the public for two weeks.

Russian Officials View Possible Israeli Strike

LD1710095895 Tehran IRNA in English
0858 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Oct. 17, IRNA — Russian officials in the ministries of nuclear energy and defense said Israeli circles are trying to stop Russian-Iranian cooperation in the field of nuclear energy which are for peaceful purposes, the Cairo daily AL-AHRAM reported. In a front-page news published on Sunday [15 October], AL-AHRAM added that the Israelis also want the international community to exercise self-restraint with regards to Israeli threats to attack nuclear reactors in Iran.

The unnamed officials said if the nuclear reactors, which are being built with Russian help in Iran, are attacked and Russian lives and interests are harmed, then the Russian president and the Russian government should take steps to destroy all nuclear plants situated in Israel's Negev Desert.

German Official Addresses Ties, Other Issues

LD1610173095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a news conference today the German deputy parliament speaker [Hans Klein] described Germany's views on the developments in the region. He said: The world today would not allow a country to be condemned willy nilly. To decide about a country needs political counselling.

He praised Iran's actions regarding international crises such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Middle Eastern affairs. He described his country's stance on the Islamic Republic of Iran as unalterable. He added: Iran plays a key and determining role in regional developments.

He said Iran has honored all its commitments and has so far been able to repay 5 billion marks of its debts. He added: That figure could play a positive role in the trade relations of the two countries.

Calls For 'Upgrading' Trade Ties

LD1710065295 Tehran IRNA in English
0643 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA — Iranian Minister of Finance and Economy Morteza

Mohammad-Khan, in a meeting with Germany's parliament vice-speaker Hans Klein here on Monday [16 October], called for the expansion of bilateral trade ties and further consolidation of mutual relations through investment in each country's joint ventures.

Referring to the fact that Germany is one of the best trade partners of Iran, Mohammad-Khan dubbed current trade ties as "insufficient" and called for an upgrading in mutual trade cooperation.

As to Iran's obligations, Klein stated that on the basis of the agreements inked between the two countries, Tehran has fulfilled its financial commitments and has so far paid dm. five billion of Iranian debts to Germany.

He expressed hope that with regards to the new rescheduling, the ground has been set for opening up new credits at a level proportionate to bilateral trade volume and cooperation.

Touching on the importance of Iran's status in the region and the world as well, Klein underscored the promotion of his country's ties with Iran.

He lauded the Islamic Republic for its precise planning in repaying its debts and construed it as "effective" in pursuing the future expansion of bilateral relations.

Velayati Departs for NAM Meeting in Colombia

LD1510160895 Tehran IRNA in English
1112 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA — A high-ranking Iranian delegation led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Malta Sunday [15 October] for Colombia to represent the Islamic Republic of Iran at the 11th summit meet of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

At the end of his visit to Malta where he took part in the forum foundation meeting, the Iranian minister left the country for Colombia this morning.

The four-day summit is to begin on Monday in the Colombian city of Cartagena.

Leaders, heads of state and government as well as officials from 112 NAM member states are taking part in the meeting to review international social, cultural and economic issues.

Iran's stands and viewpoints on various international issues and on ways of strengthening and activating the Non-Aligned Movement will be outlined by the Iranian foreign minister.

The 10th NAM summit was held in 1992 in Indonesia in which an Iranian delegation headed by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was present.

The NAM summit meet is held every three years while its ministerial meeting is held annually.

Rafsanjani Returns, Hails Visits as 'Fruitful'

LD1310221995 Tehran IRNA in English
1810 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 13 (IRNA) — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on his return home from his 9-day three-nation visit said today that Iran in all the 25 memoranda of understanding (MOU) which were signed in Vietnam, the Philippines, and Bangladesh in various fields including agriculture, trade, culutre, technology and economc-industrial cooperation.

In his talks with reporters on arrival at Mehrabad Airport, Rafsanjani summed up his state visits as "fruitful," saying that thanks to the Islamic revolution and its geo-political situation, Iran holds a pride of place in the world.

In all the three countries, he said, the Iranian delegation, achieved its objectives, inking nine agreements in Vietnam, nine agreements in Bangladesh and seven agreements in the Philippines.

"One of our objectives was to strengthen friendship and deepen cooperation and we managed to achieve our desired aim," said the president whose delegation included representatives from the Iranian private sector.

He said in Vietnam, the agreements inked included the building of a tea processing factory, an oil refinery and a cement plant.

Rafsanjani noted that agreements were reached between the Iranian private sector and its counterparts in the host countries in such fields as development projects, agriculture, industry, oil, gas, and maintenance services.

The people and government of Vietnam appreciate the independent stances of Islamic Iran on various international issues, said the president, who opened his three-nation visit with his arrival in Hanoi on October 5.

In all the three countries the enthusiasm shown by the people for the Iranian delegation, was rather moving and left an indelible impression upon officials, he said.

"The people of Bangladesh are very much inspired by the Islamic revolution, and today I participated in the Friday prayer at Dhaka's Beit-ul-Mokarram Mosque. They are so much attached to the Islamic revolution that words cannot describe their feelings," he stated. "Iran was never such so popular, and even international community and press and cultural officials of Bangladesh could not hide their joy at the defeat of the U.S. trade sanctions against the Islamic republic," said Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani.

He said that at Dhaka University the foundation was laid for a faculty for the teaching and promotion of Persian language, and expressed hope that in other countries, especially in the sub- continent, similar faculties would be set up.

The three countries of the sub-continent, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, are greatly indebted to Persian literature for their cultural roots, and were once flourishing centres of Persian poetry and art.

The president said that wherever he went in Bangladesh, the people were with him, lining up the routes and waving at the Iranian delegation.

In the Philippines, especially in the poor quarters of the city, he said he was amazed at the presence of the oppressed people who turned out to greet him.

Rafsanjani said that during his visit to one of the former U.S. military bases in the Philippines (Subic Bay) which has been converted into a free trade zone, he told the Filipinos that the sound of machines at factories instead of the monotonous screech of American aircraft is indicative of the progressive changes.

Khamene'i Addresses IRGC, BRF in Mazandaran

NC1610100195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the supreme leader of the Islamic Revolution and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, met with a large group of commanders, officials, and members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and of the Basij Resistance Force [BRF] of Mazandaran Province last night. He gave a speech lauding the IRGC and BRF for having proved their proficiency in warfare, organization, knowledge, and spirituality. He described them as select strata in the Islamic system and a strong and inspiring pillar for others. [passage omitted]

Saying that an increase in knowledge without spirituality has led to the emergence of unprecedented arrogance around the world, the esteemed leader said: The arrogant forces, headed by the United States, have established a presence in all the sensitive areas of the world, using every possible pretext in a bid to spread their arrogant spirit throughout the world and to be able to interfere anywhere in the world that they want to. All this is the result of increasing knowledge without faith.

Stressing the significance of jihad for the sake of God, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces stated: Today, the enemies of Islam are employing all their instruments to tear the banner of defending lofty values out of the hands of the Iranian nation. If the Iranian nation is unable to keep this banner flying, Almighty God will no longer be worshipped on Earth. Today, knowledge and spirituality are used in the service of the jihad for God so that the banner of justice will continue to fly. [passage omitted]

Referring to the diabolic forces' crafty propaganda against the hezbollahi forces, the supreme leader of the Islamic Revolution said: In the past, babblers accused the pious and hezbollahi forces of ignorance of warfare, of being unfamiliar with military tactics, and of lacking a militaristic spirit. However, the eight years of holy defense showed that these forces learn much better and quicker than others and more frequently take the initiative in training, so much so that the operational plans the IRGC used in the Val Fajr-8 and Karbala-5 operations and the military tactics used to cross the Arvand Rud are now being taught in universities.

Discussing the role of the pious forces in military organization, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces said: The IGRC is organized along the most unprecedented and most successful lines. Every brigade can be expanded into a division, and each division can be transformed into a corps. This special method that is in force in the IRGC shows the organizational strength of the IRGC.

Referring to the IRGC's spectacular successes in the field of electronic warfare, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: Today some of the most complicated military equipment, which the Americans undoubtedly never thought the Islamic Republic of Iran could possibly gain access to is being made in IRGC factories by the powerful hands of the revolutionary forces; moreover, it is being mass produced. Despite all its intelligence equipment and its espionage tentacles, the enemy is ignorant of this.

The commander-in-chief referred to the IRGC and BRF combatants as a select force in their organization, combat tactics, manufacturing military materiel, and their understanding of national affairs. While emphasizing the significance of their fighting worldly desires, he said: The very elements who have striven to render the hezbollahi forces useless and to prevent their success in the defense sector are today busy planning how to undermine the valuable contribution of the IRGC and the BRF. In order to thwart these plots and plans, the pious forces of the IRGC and the BRF should distance themselves from the deceitful manifestations of the materialistic world as much as possible.

The esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution also referred to the closely knit fabric of the Islamic system, adding: The enemy's plots concentrate on culturally assaulting Islamic Iran, because the enemy knows that pious human beings form the strong fabric of the Islamic system. However, the young and pious members of the IRGC and BRF should do their very best to blunt the enemy's weapons in this regard. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stated: Today, more than ever before, the weakness the powers of arrogance and of the plots of the enemies, especially the United States, have become quite clear to the Iranian nation. Those powers realize that they cannot vanquish this country, system, government, and united people.

General Views Combat Readiness, Military Ability

NC0910112195 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Sep 95 p 7

["Exclusive" interview with Brigadier General Karim 'Ebadat, acting commander of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by Rahim Chukhachizadeh in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Chukhachizadeh] Every country shows its strength and glory in the face of major dangers and enemy attacks through its armed forces. In our case this is enhanced by the Islamic and national aspects of our Armed Forces.

As the acting commander of the ground forces, how do you view the combat capability and readiness of the force?

['Ebadat] We have an army that has been at war since the victory of the revolution. It was involved in combating counter- revolutionaries and the plots of the enemies of Islam in the west and south of the country. We were also grappling with the massive plots of the superpowers and the aggressive Iraqi regime. Since that imbroglio we are still in a 'no war, no peace' situation, which demands specific techniques and tactics.

With our eight years of experience of holy defense [Iran-Iraq war] we have realized that we should be self-reliant and prove to those countries that depend on others for their ordnance needs that you should not latch onto the promises of the greater powers. We have experienced and expert armed forces who utilize their training experiences. With regard to the purchase and procurement of armaments and weapons, as well as armored carriers, we have tried to identify all the discrepancies and weak points in equipment during the war. Now we have no technical defects. This is a major and valuable trait of our country's Armed Forces. Using these experiences, we formulated maneuvers and the training courses required by the personnel. Maneuvers are carried out in realistic conditions with real weapons without casualties.

[Chukhachizadeh] One of the important things in the most basic recommendations of the great leader and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, including the ground forces, is to attain self- sufficiency and to sever the Armed Forces' dependence on foreigners in the various fields. Praise be to God, we have achieved this to a great extent. What are your most important measures, especially in the sphere of military resources and equipment? And what plans do you have for modernizing the forces?

['Ebadat] In the eight years of holy defense the countries that exported weapons in support of the Iraqi regime would not sell even the most simple armaments and armored carriers to us. Even a basic item like barbed wire was not sold to us. These experiences impelled us to realization. During the war we began thinking about self-sufficiency. With the guidance and wisdom of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Ayatollah Khamene'i, who was also president at the time, we made progress in meeting our military needs and manufactured most of the components without any assistance from foreign experts. We are now producing the main components of helicopters, airplanes, tanks, and so on, hitherto produced with the help of advisers. After the final studies we have plans to mass produce tanks, helicopters, and personnel carriers.

To enhance the range and capability of our cannon and tank- transport carriers we have made some changes. Similarly, all the repair work on helicopters and airplanes, formerly sent abroad, is now carried out by the able and industrious hands of the ground forces personnel.

We have plans for the mass production of the Zolfaqar tank and Kobra personnel carriers, which will begin shortly. Thus we can certainly say that the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are, in many respects, on the level of even those armed forces that export armaments.

[Chukhachizadeh] What are the programs for training specialized cadres and the higher courses of military training?

['Ebadat] Immediately after the war all modes and systems were reviewed and we incorporated all that had to be done in our work regulations and laws. We initiated courses for our officers at the military officers' academy in the fields of specialization that were needed. Earlier, the academy merely had expert-level courses in military sciences. But now we have specialized courses in mathematics, physics, management, computer engineering, and electronic and mechanical proficiency.

Efforts have also been made to revamp systems at the sergeants' training academy to upgrade entry requirements to secondary school level so that personnel can receive a high school diploma on completion of their particular courses. With regard to the level of pilot training courses or technical courses for airplane and helicopter pilots, there are students who are pursuing very high-level advanced courses in Esfahan in such a way that other countries have also sent in volunteers to participate in these courses in our technical and pilot-training academies.

There are also specialized degree-level courses in the colleges of the command headquarters—or university. That headquarters has practical wartime experience. And we also have a university of strategic sciences, which awards a doctorate in military disciplines, strategy courses, and national defense. To acquire extremely high-level specialization we have initiated a student exchange program with other countries. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Leghari: Karachi Casting 'Dark Shadow' on Economy

BK1610090295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said the government is fully cognizant of the violence in Karachi which is casting a dark shadow on economic prospects, and is making every effort to end it. He was speaking at the third round-table conference of economists group in Islamabad this morning. He said the potential for economic growth is much higher, especially in the industrial sector and improvement in conduct of monetary and fiscal policies could see a decline in inflation. He said the fiscal deficit was most important in balancing the economy, which is being addressed by the government. The president called on the business community to impress upon the leadership of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] that violence is not in the interest of any party or people of Pakistan. The grievances of people, especially those in Karachi, must be addressed through political and legal framework. He said the government is very serious in dialogue with the MQM as peace in the city would open economic activity and ultimately benefit it politically.

MQM Leader Writes to UN on 'Atrocities'

BK1310114895 (Internet) MQM NEWS in English 26 Sep 95

["Text" of letter from MQM leader Altaf Hussain to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and "Several Other International Leaders" issued in London on 24 September]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Subject: Brutal and Inhuman Extra-Judicial Executions of the Supporters of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] and the Muhajir Nation by Pakistani Government.

Dear Secretary General:

With much pain and anxiety I approach your Excellency to use your good offices and that of the UN to restrain the Benazir Bhutto Government in Pakistan from its relentless campaign of Genocide against my people. In particular, I wish to bring to the notice of the international community the harrowing details of some extra-judicial executions carried out by the Pakistani Government under the directions of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her infamous Interior Minister, General Nasirullah Babar. Only after reading such details would you appreciate extent of the outrageous atrocities that are currently being perpetrated upon the Muhajir Nation and its solitary representative party, the MQM, in southern Pakistan in the province of Sindh.

On 22 September, 1995, one Jameel Ahmed aged about 35 years s/o [son of] Habib Ahmed resident of House No. 108, lane 9, Tanga Stand, Shershah, Karachi, was extra-judicially murdered by the Police and the Paramilitary Rangers. He was a party worker and in charge of MQM Unit 192 at Shershah. According to reports Jameel Ahmed along with two other MQM workers Raees and Shabbir was arrested by Paramilitary Rangers on the evening of 22 September, 1995, and shifted to the Gulbahar Police Station. At this Police Station there is a special torture cell in which the victims are tied down to a wooden plank while their hands and feet are chained with cuffs. Then a helmet like contraption which includes electric shock giving apparatus is put on his head. After securing the victim's complete immobility, massive electric shocks are given by the torturers. In this case Jameel Ahmed was given this inhuman torture to an abnormal extent leading to his death. The Police Station, thereafter, summoned his relatives and forced them to bury the deceased quietly. They were also warned that if they conveyed this news to the outsiders terrible consequences would befall them. However, the family after burying the deceased under the forceful directions of the local Policemen, conveyed this information to the party.

Thereupon, we have agitated the matter and asked the Government in Pakistan to register appropriate criminal case against the culprits, including the Interior Minister, General Nasirullah Babar. The whereabouts or fate of the other two arrested MQM workers remains unknown till present time.

In order to stress upon the relentless pattern of gross and consistent atrocities of this horrible kind it is necessary to give you briefly some more details of brutalities of the Pakistani Authorities against us.

Tariq Hassan Rizvi was arrested by the Police from his house at F-10, 2 Marton Quarters, Karachi, on August 16, 1995. His arrest was also confirmed by the Pakistan Television and Radio which aired this news on the same day in the evening. His mother Mrs. Shehnaz Begum, thereafter, filed a Petition in the Sindh High Court, Karachi, seeking his release from the unlawful custody of the Government. The Constitutional Petition came up for hearing before the Chief Justice who summoned the State with the requisite response on August 31, 1995. However, on this day the Pakistan Television repeated the arrest news of said Tariq Hassan Rizvi implying that he was arrested on the subsequent of the two dates mentioned above. On the following day September 1, 1995, the Police In charge of Jamshed Quarters handed over the dead body of the said Tariq Rizvi to his mother.

The body of the deceased bore evidence of severe and brutal torture. The front part of his body had been slit open from throat down to his stomach and his hands were totally smashed. The bottom of his feet had been put apparently on fire resulting in complete burning of his skin and flesh. Many parts of his torso bore marks of laceration caused by sharp edged weapons. His head had been ripped apart at various places and his flesh was oozing out from such gaps in the skull. His nose bone had been totally flattened and his lips had been cut apart.

This outrageous and inhuman atrocity was committed in the custody of Police between August 16, 1995, and August 31, 1995. When as a result of this terrible torture he was on his death bed, the Police took him to the jail authorities to hand him over to them.

Accordingly, when the dead body was handed over to the mother of the deceased it was verbally communicated that the dead man had been handed over to the Jail Authority by the Police in such a condition on the previous day. It is, therefore, emphatically established that the inhuman physical and demonic nature of State inflicted torture led to his death; but one shudders to even think of the unspeakable level of pain and suffering he had to endure before leaving his mortal existence.

Then on August 25, 1995, an MQM worker of Unit 162, Liaquatabad, Karachi, 30 years old Mr. Rashid Ali Qureshi was brutally murdered by the law enforcement agencies. On 24th August Mr. Qureshi left the house with his neighbour and his car was followed by the Agency personnel in plain clothes. His car was later stopped and he was forcibly taken away by these people. His neighbour was left behind. The following day his corpse was found in a street revealing the signs of extreme torture: both his eyes were gouged out and his skull was drilled from side to side. There were also other marks of torture on his body.

On 2 August 1995, at 3.30 a.m., Police and Paramilitary Rangers conducted a raid at Azeem Building, Ghulam Hussain Road, Garden West, Karachi. The raiding party broke into the house of a relative of an MQM worker namely Farooq Putney and arrested the following: 1 — Farooq Putney, 2 — Javed Michael, 3 — Hanif Turk, 4 — Ghaffar Mada, 5 — Shazia Farooq, wife of Farooq Putney, 6 — Two brothers and father in law of Farooq Putney.

The above mentioned were active workers of the MQM. They were in hiding at the above address to save their lives from the repressive forces of the present Government of Pakistan. After being arrested, Farooq Putney, Javed Michael, Hanif Turk and Ghaffar Mada were callously murdered by the police and the Law Enforcement Agencies. The Police falsely announced that the above named were "terrorists" and shot dead in a "Police encounter". The Police and the Paramilitary Rangers then cordoned off the house of Farooq Putney and mourners were not allowed to visit his house for even offering condolence.

Mr Aslam Sabzwari aged 35 years, resident of 159\7, Commercial Area, Orangabad, Karachi, an elected MQM Councillor of Nazimabad, Karachi was arrested on 6 July 1995, at 12.00 p.m., at North Nazimabad. Those who arrested Mr Sabzwari were in plain clothes and were driving government vehicle No: GF 2523. Mr Shoaib Bukahri, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh and the Deputy Convenor of the Co-ordination Committee of the MQM contacted the authorities and requested them not to torture Mr Aslam Sabzwari, since severe torture and deaths in the Army, Rangers and Police custody were a daily occurrence in Karachi and other urban centres of Sindh.

Deputy Commissioner Khusro Pervaiz confirmed the arrest of Mr Sabzwari and assured him that the detainee would not suffer any torture and there was no danger to his life. But on the following day, 7 July 1995, Mr Sabzwari was pronounced dead due to heart attack. But his dead body exhibited torture marks and contradicted Government's version. His right eye has been gouged out. Torture marks made by electric drill indicated that he was subjected to brutal torture and killed while in Police custody. This inhuman act is the height of barbarism that has been unleashed on the Muhajir Nation and their elected office bearers, leaders, workers, sympathisers belonging to the MQM.

As I write to you this letter the Interior Minister of Pakistan, General Nasirullah Babar, addressed a press conference in Karachi this evening and announced without the least embarrassment that the law enforcement agency had killed yet another MQM worker, namely, Asif Zaidi in Orangi Town as a result of a "Police Encounter". Such Government claims are always preposterous since they are faked to avoid legal responsibility. In reality the victim is first killed and then a stage is created in which it is devised to be depicted that a Police Encounter had occurred. In the same press conference the minister admitted that a companion of the said Asif Zaidi, called Mohammad Saeed, was also arrested. However, our sources have confirmed that he too has been murdered. According to our reports both these MQM workers were arrested at 9 a.m. in the morning on 23 September, 1995, in Sector 1-A, Orangi Town No. 1, Qaddafi Chowk, Karachi. After sometime they were both extra-judicially executed while in custody by the Paramilitary Rangers. It is also confirmed by our sources that a third MQM worker, Shehzad, who was also taken in custody at the same time, was also murdered by the arresting law enforcement people.

I have given you the details of only a few noted cases which have been proved by documentation and media reports to have been the result of extra-judicial killings of our people at the hands of the Police or the Paramilitary Rangers. As a matter of fact, scores have been eliminated in this manner; but it is not always easy to have concurrent account by credible evidence of such tragedies. The malicious designs of the Interior Minister of the Bhutto regime is to physically kill as many as possible those he suspects of being actively supportive of the Muhajir Nation or the MQM through the use of brute State force. The political foundation of this campaign rests on the premise of the fear of Benazir Bhutto's People's Party that with emergence of the MQM in southern Pakistan in the province of Sindh it has effectively lost its credentials to form Government either in the province of Sindh or in Pakistan.

The Muhajir Nation constitutes, 22 million people which through their sole representative political party, the MQM has convincingly won in every election that has been held in this region. Indeed in 1988 our party was a coalition partner with the Peoples Party in Sindh. Then in 1990 we formed an alliance with the Muslim League led by Mr. Nawaz Sharif, the former Prime Minister, and were partners in both the Provincial Government of Sindh as well in the Federal Administration. Terrified by our categorical political strength, Benazir Bhutto has unleashed a reign of terror on our Nation. In the process, she has also committed the most appalling racism. In a speech at Kasur, Punjab, Pakistan on May 23, 1995, she referred to the Muhajir Nation as "rats". She has been internationally condemned for this exhibition of racial bigotry which is an international crime under the Prevention of Racial Discrimination Convention, 1965.

The matter of continued killings of our sympathisers and workers while in custody of the Police raises the most obnoxious facet of this vendetta of Benazir Bhutto against the Muhajir Nation. Victims in Police custody are not merely defenceless, under the laws of every civilised country, they are supposed to be in the protection of the Courts before whom they are expected to be produced within 24 hours under Article 10 of the Constitution of Pakistan. They are also entitled to freedom of person and of the services of a lawyer under this provision of the Constitution as well as under Article 9. However, the hooligan pattern of behaviour adopted by the local Police and the Paramilitary Rangers under the express directions of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Interior Minister, General Nasirullah Babar, ensures that many of these unfortunate people in custody never live to see the day when they can be produced in the Court. After infliction of terrible torture the law enforcement agencies simply eliminate them thereby defeating the fundamental notions of justice enshrined in the above provisions of the Constitution of Pakistan.

Not only manifest and massive violation of local law is thus occurring, many sacrosanct norms of international law are being violated as well. The most fundamental transnational laws so violated are, the International Minimum Standards for Prisoners laid down in the First UN Congress on this subject in 1955. Also directly violated are the basic principles of the Genocide Convention, 1948. Also the UN Treaty Against Cruel and Inhuman Treatment has been visibly torn apart. The shameful conduct of the Bhutto regime expresses her Government's relentless resolve to continue with its repression of the Muhajir Nation, domestic or international laws notwithstanding, in order to continue in power. Her facade of democratic veneer is nothing but a hoax adorned to befool those who care not to look too deeply into the current turmoil in southern Pakistan in the province of Sindh.

However, the kind of torture that is now being inflicted on numerous of our people leading to their deaths cannot be tolerated any longer. The plethora of international human rights laws that the world community has created cannot possibly be so weak and feeble as not to be able to call the Pakistani Government to account for what horrendous brutality it is currently engaged in against the Muhajir Nation. For this and all reasons given above, I urge you to immediately impress upon the Authorities in Islamabad to urgently put an end to this appalling State misbehaviour. It is requested that copies of this Petition be circulated to the members of Security Council since the actions of Benazir Bhutto deserve a condemnation of all those that monitor the sanctity of international law everywhere.

Yours sincerely, Altaf Hussain

Copy to: 1- President, General Assembly. 2- President Clinton. 3- Prime Minister, John Major. 4- President, International Court of Justice, the Hague. 5- Chairman, UN Human Rights Commission, Geneva. 6- The President of Pakistan. 7- Chief of Army Staff, GHQ [General Headquarters], Pakistan. 8- Secretary General, Amnesty International, London. 9- Lord Avebury, Chairman, Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, House of Lords London. 10- Chief Justice of Pakistan, Islamabad. 11- Lord Chief Justice of England. 12- Lord Chancellor of England. 13- Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs, State Department, Washington DC. 14- Assistant Secretary for South Asia, State Department, Washington DC. 15- Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, Washington DC. 16- Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Washington DC. 17- Chairman, House Foreign Relations Committee, Washington DC.

MQM: Talks Contingent Upon Probe Into Killing

BK1410115095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Oct 95 p 12

[Unattributed article]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — The government should order probe into custodial killing of MQM [Muhajir Quami Movement] workers by the judges of High Court and only then, we shall talks with the government negotiating team.

This was said by Ajmal Dehlvi, Chief negotiator of MQM team while talking to The Nation on Friday [13 October]. This is due pre-condition, he said.

Dehlvi said that except reading in the newspapers, Mr Khan or his associates have not made any contact with him on the issue of talks. 'You see that there is a difference between a government invitation to us and a news item referred about us. Political matters have to be resolved in a framework and within the boundaries of discipline,' he said.

Referring to the MQM worker's killing under custody, he said that initially, there were three such activists who were killed showing police encounter and now the number has been increased to seven. No one knows what are the intentions of the government in future. They know simply we can request them, protest to them for stoppage of such inhuman acts. The tragic part of the whole episode is that nothing has been done so far, he said.

Receiving the incident of Tando Baho, he said that judicial probe was conducted by army and the persons found guilty were punished. Every one appreciated the decision and paid tributes to those who court-martialed the guilty. This is justice. Justice done should be seen, this is the universal principle, said Dehlvi, referring to the Tando Baho incident, he said that in case police and rangers have done anything wrong and done the excesses, then an enquiry must be instituted and people if found guilty should be punished. 'No one should be above law,' he said.

Replying to a question whether the MQM would go for talks, he said that we are always ready but the government has to assure the stoppage of killing of our people in custody.

Article Views 'Coup Conspiracy,' Officers' Arrest

BK1610105895 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 Oct 95 p 1,8

[Report by Kamran Khan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — In a successful covert military operation consistent common sense plays the decisive role not religious fervor. This was the crucial lesson one drew from the last week's abortive attempt by a group of senior army officers to effect a change in the political and military landscape of the country.

An investigation by the News Intelligence Unit (NIU) into the events that stunned General Headquarters (GHQ) last week, have revealed that though a recently retired lieutenant general had agreed to play the silent actor in a whole drama and a major general had to play the most important role of capturing the military headquarters, the entire plot was the brainchild of a brigadier whose single act of foolishness saved the country from a major disaster.

Brigadier Mustansir Billah, a Baluch Regiment officer of a dubious past, not only gave birth to the idea that the country could only be salvaged through his version of an Islamic revolution, he also thought that an immediate military intervention was required to liberate Kashmir. He offered to play the key role and convinced another dozen senior and middle cadre officers of the army to join him.

Before launching the major adventure aimed at removing the political and military leadership of the country early this month, the group strengthened its ties with Harkatul Ansar and Hizbul Mujahideen the two groups dedicated to Jihad against infidels all over the world. Ironically it was the arrest of an Harkat activist in Muzzafarabad, a couple of weeks ago, that provided military authorities with the initial clue about the plot.

The coup conspiracy, however, collapsed when the over zealous Brigadier Billah along with a colonel of the army aviation corps, decided to personally visit the tribal areas in the NWFP to negotiate an arms deal and to transport an arms cache under their personal supervision to Rawalpindi, where the operation was to be executed. Driving pass the Attock check post in his flagged single star vehicle, the Brigadier and the colonel told the staff at the check post that the vehicle behind them may not be searched as they were on an official mission. The check post had prior information and a warming not to let those vehicles pass.

The search of the vehicle that followed Brig. Billah's car, yielded a big cache of weapons. The brigadier and the colonel were arrested and handed to the military authorities. The event was closely monitored by the top military authorities from a room in the GHQ and triggered a go ahead signal to the specially constituted teams of the army security agencies who spared little time in arresting Major General Zahooruddin Abbasi, Colonel Kiyalu, Colonel Zahid and Colonel Amjad who were believed to have had advance information about the conspiracy.

It was such an indigenous and amateurish plot that some leading figures in the conspiracy sold their prized possessions to pool money for purchase of arms and ammunition from the tribal areas. Sources said that though no evidence was available to suggest that a recently retired senior officer also contributed in the [word indistinct]. There was strong evidence in suggest that he was to play a decisive role at the final hour.

One informed source disclosed that the officers involved in the conspiracy were so sure about its success that almost all of them had already designated senior ranks for themselves and had told their brethren in other extremist Islamic organisations that a new era was about to be ushered in Paldsin.

It was not the first time that a religiously motivated group within the Pakistan Army had sought to influence events in the country or abroad. In May 1993, a few months after taking over as the Chief of Pakistan Army, General Abdul Waheed had retired Lieutenant General Javed Nasir, the then Chief of the military's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Directorate for providing covert military support to Muslim rebels in about a dozen countries of the world.

In a major reshuffle that followed the sacking of Lt. General Javed Nasir, who now travels all over the world preaching Islam, more than two dozen ISI officials who had worked to further the personal Islamic agenda of their boss were also transferred from the country's premier intelligence agency.

Officials investigating the current case have found evidence that the entire group of the religiously motivated officers arrested last week had strong personal connections with the former ISI chief, who had initially formed an unnamed group of staunch Muslim officials in the army. Former ISI Chief Javed Nasir has not yet been questioned in this case.

THE NATION on Effect of Officers' Arrest

BK1610094395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Oct 95 p 14

[Editorial: "Arrest of Army Officers"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For the past many days, the rumour of the arrest of some Army officers had been making the rounds of certain circles, but it was neither being confirmed nor denied by the government agencies dealing with such matters. Senator Tariq Chandhry too had talked about it. And yet the government remained silent. Now the Prime Minister herself has confirmed it by revealing that while some officers had been arrested she was not in a position to disclose any details pending further enquiries. While it would be prudent to await more information about this unfortunate happening the fact that certain officers had to be arrested, obviously for activities outside the ambit of law, raises some fundamental questions of discipline as well as of political ambitions where there should be none. According to a report, these officers may have been involved in a plot to bring about a so-called 'Islamic revolution'. If true, will be the first time since the Rawalpindi Conspiracy of 1951 which involved some Army officers who wanted to stage a coup d'etat of a leftist orientation. It sounds like a hark back to the days when General Ziaul Haq, after usurping power, started claiming that his real aim was introducing 'Nizam-i- Mustafa' In the country. He ruled Pakistan for eleven long years under that apparently pious umbrella, masquerading as a champion of Islam and duping all his friends and admirers about his real motives. He started proclaiming that the Army's duty was not just to defend the geographic frontiers of the country (which appear on the world map) but also to defend its ideological frontiers (which remain only in the minds of the people and which vary from person to person). The fact that the latter was only a camouflage for Bonapartism was realised even during his lifetime but too late for some of our misguided politicians who supported him earlier, to do anything about it.

Constitutionally, Pakistan is an Islamic state run by a parliamentary democracy. Hence our Islamic system is to be evolved through ijtehad and consensus in the form of a parliament. In this backdrop, an authoritarian system camouflaged in the form of an ideology is anathema to the very concept of Pakistan. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the senior leadership of our Armed Forces has not been beguiled into believing that it has any other mission than the defence of the country's geographical frontiers, nor has it been tempted by the open or covert invitations for intervention in political matters that some of our misguided politicians have been offering. It is obvious, of course, that these and similar other observations would remain hypothetical in nature till the real motives of the alleged culprits in the Army are known.

It is reassuring, however, to know that the agencies entrusted with the task of spotting budding Bonapartism are alert and are wiling to perform their duties without fear or favour. As the possibility of black sheep even in the best run institutions of the country cannot obviously be ruled out, it is important that the education and the orientation of others in such institutions is done on the right lines and they are not allowed to be tainted by the company of the reasonable elements.

Sri Lanka

Minister Views Investment, Ties in U.S. Talks

BK0610074195 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 6 Oct 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait and Korea expressed interest in investing in Sri Lanka and the two countries have indicated their desire to exchange trade and investment delegations with Sri Lanka.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and Korean Foreign Minister Kong No-myong expressed their desire to boost economic cooperation with Sri Lanka when they met with Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar in New York. Mr. Kadirgamar also met Mexican, Senegal and Jamaica foreign ministers.

Shaykh Al-Sabah, expressed his satisfaction at the state of relations between the two countries and recalled his visits to Sri Lanka, including in 1976 to attend the Non-Aligned Summit in Colombo. Sri Lanka's contribution to non-alignment, in particular that of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike was greatly appreciated by Kuwait.

The two ministers explored possibilities of Kuwaiti investment in Sri Lanka. It was agreed that the two countries would take up practical aspects for the exchange of visits of economic delegations. The government of Kuwait would consider the possibility of representatives of the State Investment Authority undertaking a feasibility visit to Sri Lanka which could help the development of greater contacts between the private sectors of the two countries as well.

The two ministers discussed the situation of around 80,000 Sri Lankans who are working in Kuwait. The foreign minister of Kuwait stated that his people were happy to host them. Isolated cases where difficulties had arisen were not the norm and the two countries were certain that Sri Lankans working in Kuwait would continue to be a major aspect in the promotion of mutually beneficial relations.

The Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, Kong No-myong, and the foreign minister of Sri Lanka appreciated the productive growth in economic relations between the two countries. The ROK Foreign Minister stated that the Korean Foreign Exchange Bank will open its office in Colombo in November and anticipated many Korean investors and traders to further explore the business opportunities in Sri Lanka.

The ROK foreign minister further reiterated his country's support for the peace proposal put forward by the Sri Lankan Government.

Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurria [title as published], discussed the need to strengthen relations between the two countries. Both ministers noted that the Protocol on International Cooperation signed between the two countries in 1976, when the President of Mexico visited Colombo for the Non-Aligned Summit is yet to be ratified. Both ministers reiterated their commitment to revive this protocol, which provides for the setting up of a Joint Committee for the two countries to explore cooperation on many economic issues.

The Mexican foreign minister welcomed Sri Lankan exporters of Cinnamon and other products to fully utilise the full potential of the fast growing market created by NAFTA [North America Free Trade Agreement].

The Foreign Minister of Senegal, Moustapha Niasse, discussed the need to establish formal diplomatic relations between Senegal and Sri Lanka. Both ministers agreed to explore the possibility of the Senegalese ambassador in New Delhi being accredited to Colombo and a Sri Lanka Ambassador resident in Africa being accredited to Dakar.

The foreign minister expressed Sri Lanka's commitment to the United Nations efforts in the development of Africa and added that his deep conviction that further strengthening South-South Cooperation was an effective mechanism of achieving this.

Jamaican Foreign Minister Seymour Mullings, discussed at length the upcoming Commonwealth Parliamentary Meeting to be held in Colombo. Both ministers expressed their commitment to actively participate at the Commonwealth meeting of heads of state and government that is to take place in Auckland later this year.

World Bank Briefed on National Economic Plan

BK1210120395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Most Asian countries have performed well despite adversities. Sri Lanka is proud to have been one of the pioneers in the field of economic liberalization. Addressing the plenary session of the 50th annual meeting of the board of governors of the World Bank group and the IMF, governor on the IMF for Sri Lanka, Professor G.L. Peiris, said that his country received generous support from the international community in the past. The new administration has improved the open liberal economic policies by restoring democratic freedom and by an open (?transparent) government. There is strong interest shown by foreign direct investors in the infrastructure sector which has been opened for private investment. The privatization program is gathering momentum, but he said that Sri Lanka is yet to realize the potential of the economy. The IMF and the World Bank can beneficially complement Sri Lanka's efforts at catalyzing foreign investment.

Professor G.L. Peiris explained in detail his government's political agenda to restore democracy, eliminate harsh emergency laws, and promote transparency of the government. The government has launched a (?world) targeted consolidated single welfare program to alleviate poverty on a sustainable basis. He also briefed [on] the conflict in the north and east, and hoped that the setback would be temporary.

UK Minister Briefed on Situation in North, East

BK1210060095 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 11 Oct 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeremy Hanley, MP and Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who is in charge of Asia and leading the British delegation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting being held here, called on Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar at the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

Official sources said Hanley expressed the support of the British government for the policies being pursued by the government to bring peace to the country.

Kadirgamar briefed the British minister by giving an overview of the political situation, especially relating to the north and east, and re-iterated the government's commitment to arriving at a politically negotiated settlement within an unitary Sri Lanka.

The two sides discussed international developments which are of concern to the two countries. The reform of the United Nations and the expansion of the Security Council were also discussed.

Subjects that were likely to come-up at the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting were also touched upon, the sources said.

Security Forces Mount New Offensive Against LTTE

BK1710051195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0400 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 17 (AFP)— Sri Lankan security forces mounted a fresh offensive against Tamil guerrillas on Tuesday [17 October] but rebels killed at least 16 security personnel in their own attacks, the military said.

The latest operation was launched from the military's main camp on the northern edge of the Jaffna peninsula in northern Sri Lanka where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) maintain their de facto separate state.

"All we can say at the moment is that a limited scale operation is now underway. We have no details at this stage," a military spokesman said.

Even as the offensive got underway in the north, LTTE attackers, believed to be suicide bombers, blasted a navy cargo ship at the northeastern port of Trincomalee, killing at least nine sailors, defence sources said.

They said several other sailors were seriously wounded in the pre-dawn attack.

Another seven soldiers were killed and 23 wounded in an overnight battle with the LTTE in the eastern coastal district of Batticaloa, a defence source said.

Tamil Tigers are leading a protracted campaign for an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's two million Tamil minority concentrated in the northern and eastern regions of the island.

'Thousands of Soldiers' Said Involved

BK1710083295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0742 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 17 (AFP) — At least 59 Tamil rebels and Sri Lankan military were killed Tuesday [17 October] in renewed fighting which gripped areas at the heart of the island's separatist conflict, defence sources said.

Thousands of soldiers, backed by tanks, mounted a pre-dawn advance into territory held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on the Jaffna peninsula in northern Sri Lanka, military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

"The operation is in progress. We cannot give the exact troop strength or the type of equipment used because that will help the terrorists to work out our intentions," Munasinghe said.

Army forces launched the offensive from Ponnlaikadduwan, a small town just south of the main Palaly military complex on the northern edge of Jaffna.

Defence analysts said the army drive was probably a prelude to a bigger offensive to capture Jaffna town, a symbol of Tamil separatism in the country.

There were no details of fighting, but the LTTE in a statement from its London office said the army had first attempted to break out of their defences in the peninsula on Sunday.

"After sustained artillery shelling of the population centres in the area, the government forces attempted to break out with the help of tanks and armoured vehicles. "However, the LTTE forces prevented their advance and the ensuing battle lasted for several hours," the LTTE statement said. The Sri Lankan military spokesman denied there was any fighting on Sunday.

As the army offensive got underway Tuesday, two LTTE suicide bombers sank a navy cargo vessel anchored at the northeastern port of Trincomalee.

Frogmen from the Black Sea Tiger suicide unit blasted the cargo ship "A-512" and killed nine sailors, including two officers, Munasinghe said. Six were wounded.

He said a third frogman was shot and killed before he could destroy another navy craft. Tigers staged an identical attack at Trincomalee on April 19 and sank two gunboats, marking the end of a 100-day truce with the government.

In a nighttime jungle battle in the eastern district of Batticaloa, 32 soldiers and at least 15 Tiger guerrillas were killed, defence sources said.

They said another 23 army troopers were wounded during a three- hour gun battle.

The latest fighting came after the airforce dropped leaflets over the Jaffna peninsula urging civilian@ to get away from LTTE targets, Tamil travellers from the area said.

Thousands of civilians have fled the peninsula to Kilinochchi at the northern-end of mainland Sri Lanka, Tamil civilians said.

The fighting ended a week-long lull in violence in the northern and eastern regions where the Tigers want to establish an independent homeland for the two million Tamil minority.

Earlier this month, the army deployed 6,000 soldiers in an offensive against the LTTE and captured a large area southeast of the Palaly military complex.

More than 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting during the 23-year-old separatist conflict.

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